Cape Floristic Region
Hotspot
Briefing Book

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The Cape Floristic Region sits entirely within South Africa and harbors more than 9,000 plant species, 70 percent of which are found nowhere else. It is one of the 25 richest and most threatened reservoirs of plant and animal life on Earth. These areas, called biodiversity hotspots, cover only 1.4 percent of the planet yet contain 60 percent of all terrestrial species diversity.

The Cape Floristic Region is aptly named: Its floral region contains the highest density of plant species in the world. The region also supports substantial animal diversity, with more than 560 higher vertebrate species. Invertebrates are less well-known but studies suggest high levels of unique species. The hotspot is considered a High Priority Endemic Bird Area by BirdLife International. Among the bird species unique to this hotspot are the Cape sugarbird and orange-breasted sunbird, which play a critical role in the ecosystem as pollinators of many fynbos plants.

THREATS
The region has the highest concentration of threatened plants in the world, according to IUCN-The World Conservation Union. Direct threats include land transformation; ecosystem degradation; lack of institutional capacity for conservation action; and lack of public involvement in conservation. The greatest threat is agricultural and urban expansion, followed by invasion of alien plant species. Agricultural land use has consumed 26 percent of the region and devastated lowland areas.

CEPF STRATEGY
The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) acknowledges the rigorous
priority-setting process of the Cape Action Plan for the Environment (CAPE) funded by the Global Environment Facility and the World Bank, and its ability to unify donor interest, funding and cooperative action on the highest priorities for the conservation of this region. Therefore, the CEPF strategy focuses on catalyzing civil society action on the most urgent CAPE priorities.

Within the Cape Floristic Region, CEPF focuses on supporting civil-society led efforts in the three reserve areas of Cedarberg, Gouritz and Baviaanskloof and the last remaining areas of natural vegetation in the lowlands beyond the Agulhas Plain.

The CEPF investment strategy, called an ecosystem profile, will be funded over five years, beginning in 2002.

STRATEGIC FUNDING DIRECTIONS
The CEPF strategy for the Cape Floristic Region ensures funding is directed where it is needed most and where it can do the most good.

CEPF investments in the region are guided by four strategic directions. Each project must be linked to one of these to be approved for funding.
1. Support civil society involvement in the establishment of protected areas and management plans in Cape Floristic Region biodiversity corridors.
2. Promote innovative private sector and community involvement in conservation in landscapes surrounding Cape Floristic Region biodiversity corridors.
3. Support civil society efforts to create an institutional environment that enables effective conservation action.
4. Establish a small grants fund to build capacity among institutions and individuals working on conservation in the Cape Floristic Region.

HOW TO LEARN MORE
For more information about CEPF and how to apply for grants, please visit www.cepf.net.
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INTRODUCTION
The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is designed to better safeguard the world's threatened biodiversity hotspots in developing countries. It is a joint initiative of Conservation International (CI), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank. CEPF provides financing to projects in biodiversity hotspots, areas with more than 60 percent of the Earth’s terrestrial species in just 1.4 percent of its land surface. A fundamental purpose of CEPF is to ensure that civil society is engaged in efforts to conserve biodiversity in the hotspots. An additional purpose is to ensure that those efforts complement existing strategies and frameworks established by local, regional, and national governments.

CEPF aims to promote working alliances among community groups, NGOs, government, academic institutions, and the private sector, combining unique capacities and eliminating duplication of efforts for a more comprehensive approach to conservation. CEPF is unique among funding mechanisms in that it focuses on biological areas rather than political boundaries and will examine conservation threats on a corridor-wide basis for maximum return on investment. It also focuses on transboundary cooperation when areas rich in biological value straddle national borders, or in areas where a regional approach will be more effective than a national approach. CEPF aims to provide civil society with an agile and flexible funding mechanism complementing funding currently available to government agencies.

CEPF offers an opportunity to promote the conservation of some of the most important ecosystems in the world — places of high biodiversity and great beauty. Additionally, CEPF will stimulate engagement of a wide range of public and private institutions to address conservation needs through coordinated regional efforts.

The Cape Floristic Region (CFR) is an appropriate recipient of CEPF investment for several reasons. The diversity of indigenous plants in the region is unparalleled in any similar-sized area of the world, and this unique environmental region is seriously threatened by expanding human activity. The level of previous investment and existing capacity in the region provides an exciting opportunity for CEPF to support activities that will conserve the CFR’s biodiversity in perpetuity and to create a model of a holistic approach to regional conservation for other hotspots.

The Ecosystem Profile
The purpose of the ecosystem profile is to provide an overview of the causes of biodiversity loss in a particular region and to couple this assessment with an inventory of current conservation activities in order to identify the niche where CEPF investments can provide the greatest incremental value. The ecosystem profile is intended to recommend broad strategic funding directions that can be implemented by civil society to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity in the targeted region. Applicants propose specific projects consistent with these broad directions and criteria. The ecosystem profile does not define the specific activities that prospective implementers may propose in the region, but outlines the conservation strategy that will guide those activities. For this reason, it is not possible or appropriate for the ecosystem
profile to be more specific about the site or scope of particular interventions or to identify appropriate benchmarks for those activities. Applicants will be required to prepare detailed proposals that specify performance indicators.

The Corridor Approach to Conservation

The corridor approach to biodiversity conservation seeks to provide a practical and effective solution to the universal difficulty of maintaining extensive areas of pristine habitat. It is recognized that large habitat parcels are essential for maintaining biodiversity and large-scale ecological processes, and that every opportunity to protect large bodies of habitat in perpetuity should be taken. Existing protected areas are often too small and isolated to maintain viable ecosystems and evolutionary processes; indeed, in many hotspots, even the remaining unprotected habitat fragments are acutely threatened. In such circumstances, conservation efforts must focus on linking major sites across wide geographic areas in order to sustain these large-scale processes and ensure the maintenance of a high level of biodiversity. Such networks of protected areas and landscape management systems are biodiversity corridors. In many countries, there are few opportunities for the establishment of effective corridors for landscape-level conservation. In the Cape Floristic Region, however, there are extensive opportunities to link broad habitat units through landscape gradients, and ensure that ecosystem-wide processes are protected.

The main function of the corridors is to connect biodiversity areas through a patchwork of sustainable land uses, increasing mobility and genetic exchange among individuals of fauna and flora even in the absence of large extensions of continuous natural habitat. Such corridors not only promote the immediate goals of regional-scale conservation based on individual protected areas, but also help maintain the ecosystem processes needed in order to sustain biodiversity into the future. In this context, small habitat fragments within corridors perform several related functions — connecting or reconnecting larger areas, maintaining heterogeneity in the habitat matrix, and providing refuge for species that require the unique environments present in these fragments.

Large-scale intervention through biodiversity corridors, ecoregional planning, and landscape conservation is therefore one of the highest conservation priorities at the regional level in many of the world’s hotspots and wilderness areas. From an institutional perspective, CEPF’s adoption of the corridor approach aims to stimulate new levels of civil society empowerment and participation in practical and political processes as a way to underpin and to multiply the effect of government and corporate responses to conservation. The corridor approach relies on strategic partnerships with key stakeholders to build a support framework and to coordinate activities in the field. The active involvement of local stakeholders and the development of their planning and implementation skills are essential to the sustainability of the biodiversity corridor.

BACKGROUND

A combination of political and geographic factors contributes to a unique set of opportunities and challenges to conservation in the Cape Floristic Region (CFR) Hotspot in South Africa. As a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity, CITES, and the International Convention on
Wetlands of International Importance, and host of the second Earth Summit in 2002, the Government of South Africa has demonstrated a significant commitment to conservation of Africa’s biodiversity. Within the CFR, local capacity for conservation is of high quality but professionals are insufficient in number. The CFR is politically simplified by the fact that the entire hotspot primarily falls within a single province. In addition, poor soils and inaccessible mountain areas have effectively protected nearly 50% of the region’s natural vegetation from destruction, making the CFR one of the most opportune places to conserve biodiversity in a global hotspot.

However, the ability to take advantage of this opportunity is hindered by several serious obstacles. Despite a desire to meet commitments to international conventions, the pressing need to redress past inequalities in South Africa has diminished the relative emphasis on conservation at all levels of government. As a result, resources to support conservation areas and sustainable use initiatives have decreased. Meanwhile, inappropriate land use decisions continue to allow conversion and fragmentation of original landscapes, and the proliferation within them of alien species, to continue unabated. There is also a powerful opportunity to demonstrate that conservation action and investment can contribute to community development and economic empowerment. In particular, the manner in which investments in biodiversity conservation are conducted can contribute not only to successful and exemplary conservation results, but also in redressing elements of the past marginalisation of communities in South Africa.

Conservation Planning in the Cape Floristic Region:
The Cape Action Plan for the Environment (CAPE)
To counter the threats facing the CFR, a comprehensive planning and strategy development process involving stakeholders from the government, academia, NGOs, and local communities was held from 1998-2000 with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the World Bank. As part of this process:

- extensive stakeholder and community consultations were held;
- comprehensive assessments of the legal and institutional environment for biodiversity conservation were conducted; and
- a spatial plan of priorities was developed using a rigorous scientific process to identify areas that should be included in a conservation area network to protect ecological processes essential to biodiversity.

The result of this process, the Cape Action Plan for the Environment (CAPE), identifies threats to biodiversity and recommends a comprehensive strategy to achieve conservation and sustainable development goals for the CFR within 20 years. CAPE was launched at a public forum in September 2000 and its objectives and proposed priorities enjoy broad support in both government and civil sectors. In pursuit of its goal “to effectively conserve the biological diversity of the Cape Floral Kingdom (CFK), while distributing significant benefits to the people in the region in a way that is embraced by local communities, endorsed by government and recognized internationally,” CAPE will:
- establish an effective reserve network, enhance off-reserve conservation, and support bioregional planning;
- strengthen and enhance institutions, policies, laws, cooperative governance, and community participation; and
- develop methods to ensure sustainable yields, promote compliance with laws, integrate biodiversity concerns into catchment management, and promote sustainable ecotourism.

A Coordinating Committee of government agencies has been established to oversee the implementation of CAPE; a memorandum of understanding was signed in September 2001 committing the Ministry of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, the Ministry of Water Affairs and Forestry, and the Eastern Cape and Western Cape provincial governments to the plan. To assist the Coordinating Committee — the CAPE Coordination Unit — has been established to coordinate and support conservation activities within the region at the local, national, and international levels.

Given CEPF’s objectives to address the highest priorities for conservation and to complement existing activities in the CFR Hotspot, the strategic directions of the CEPF program are linked to CAPE and address several specific opportunities and niches within this larger strategy – however with a distinct opportunity focusing on mobilizing civil society participation in conservation. Building on the collaborative processes already underway in the region, CEPF will continue to facilitate nongovernmental, scientific, and other private-sector participation in conservation while offering a flexible and rapid funding mechanism to complement longer-term funding from other donors, particularly the GEF and Table Mountain Fund (TMF).

While it is expected that CEPF funding will be used to implement key activities identified by CAPE, CEPF will remain responsive to new priorities and its funds will not be restricted to projects recommended by the CAPE Coordinating Committee. To ensure dynamic, robust, and broad-based implementation of projects in the CFR, CEPF will collaborate with the CAPE Coordination Unit.

Therefore, with both CAPE priorities considered and threats to biodiversity assessed, the following strategic directions have been identified:

- Support civil society involvement in the establishment of protected areas and management plans in CFR biodiversity corridors.
- Promote innovative private sector and community involvement in conservation in landscapes surrounding CFR biodiversity corridors.
- Support civil society efforts to create an institutional environment that enables effective conservation action.
- Establish a small grants fund for civil society efforts to build capacity amongst institutions and individuals working on conservation in the CFR.
BIOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE CFR

The CFR is one of the world’s most biologically interesting ecosystems and an epicenter of diversity and endemism. The defined area of the floral region is less than 90,000 square kilometers yet it contains the highest density of plant species in the world, exceeding that of many tropical rainforest systems. Nearly 70% of the plant species and 20% of the genera here are endemic. Unfortunately, the CFR also has the highest concentration of Threatened plants in the world.

Levels of Biodiversity and Endemism

The CFR is located at the southwestern tip of Africa and lies within the borders of South Africa (Fig. 1). Due to its high concentration of endemic plant taxa, its large number of species, and its vulnerability to processes that threaten its unique biodiversity, the CFR is recognized globally as a biodiversity hotspot. It is one of five Mediterranean-type systems included in nearly all assessments of global conservation priorities, and is the only hotspot that encompasses an entire floral kingdom. As the smallest floral kingdom — one of six botanically recognized regions of the world characterized by distinct groups of plants not found in the other kingdoms — it occupies only 90,000 square kilometers, yet its plant species richness is far greater than that of the Boreal Kingdom, which covers 40% of the Earth’s surface. In fact, this small area contains nearly 3% of the world’s plant species on 0.05% of the land area. A botanical wonder, the region also possesses high faunal diversity and endemism in both its terrestrial and aquatic communities.

Fig. 1: The Cape Floristic Region lies at the southern tip of Africa. It includes the entire Fynbos Biome and the southern portion of the Nama Karoo Biome.
The rich biodiversity of the CFR is due to an extensive and complex array of habitat types derived from topographical and climatic diversity in the region’s rugged mountains, fertile lowlands, semi-arid shrublands, and coastal dunes. The dominant vegetation of the CFR is *fynbos* (Afrikaans for “fine bush”). This fire-prone, sclerophyllous shrubland covers just over 80% of the land area and accounts for more than 7,000 of the plant species identified in the CFR. In the lowlands, *fynbos* is replaced by *renosterveld* (Afrikaans for “rhinoceros scrub”), an ericoid shrubland, and coastal dunes and thickets that sustain an extremely high density of plants and animals threatened with extinction. Trees are very rare in pristine CFR habitats, and true forests occupy less than 4,000 square kilometers. The distribution of the CFR’s biodiversity is also unusual in that many of the processes that sustain rare and endemic flora can occur in very small patches of remnant vegetation. For example, the remaining populations of three endemic plants only occur on the grounds of a racetrack in the suburbs of Cape Town on a patch of ground smaller than four hectares. It has been determined that many localized *fynbos* endemics persist in patches of 4-15 hectares. It is therefore important to recognize that each fragment of natural habitat in the CFR can be worthy of conservation action.

**Flora**

The flora of the CFR is spectacularly diverse. More than 9,000 species of vascular plants occur in the CFR, of which nearly 70% are endemic. The CFR ranks ninth among the world’s 25 hotspots in endemic plant species and, among the five Mediterranean climate hotspots, the CFR ranks second after the Mediterranean Basin in vascular plant diversity as well as endemism. When species diversity and endemism per unit area of intact vegetation are considered, the CFR tops the list of Mediterranean hotspots. On average, there are 456 species of plants per 1,000 square kilometers of intact natural vegetation, with the western portion of the CFR supporting even higher levels of diversity. In the Cape Peninsula alone, 2,285 species exist in 470 square kilometers. The importance of the region from an evolutionary perspective is evident in that the CFR boasts 193 endemic genera and six endemic plant families. Only the islands of Madagascar and New Caledonia have comparable rates of plant endemism at the family level.

Among plants, the South African proteas attract considerable attention on account of their wide range of beautiful colors and shapes. Flagship species that demonstrate the range of diversity within the family include the king protea; South Africa’s national flower, the marsh rose; and the silver tree. Other notable species include the showy pincushions, which are exported in large numbers for the ornamental flower market. The striking red disa, an endemic orchid, is an important emblem in the Western Cape Province. The Clanwilliam cedar, endemic to the Cedarberg Mountains in the northwest CFR, is a globally threatened conifer.

**Fauna**

Augmenting its incredible botanical diversity, the CFR also supports substantial diversity among the fauna, with more than 560 higher vertebrate species. After the Eastern Arc Mountains and New Caledonia, the CFR possesses the greatest vertebrate diversity per unit area of the original extent of natural vegetation among the hotspots. The Cape Peninsula alone has 111 endemic vertebrates, and even more plants and insects.
Despite significant reductions during the 20th century, the diversity and endemism of fauna in the CFR remain impressive. The grassy renosterveld supported sizeable numbers of large mammals prior to European colonization. Hunting and the expansion of agriculture in colonial times are known to have caused the complete extinction of at least two endemic mammals — the blue antelope and quagga — and led to local extinctions of many of the other large species. However, 127 mammal species (nine endemic) still persist in protected areas and remote mountain areas of the CFR. The CFR is also known for its diversity of small mammals and flagship species — notably, the Cape dune mole rat, a large rodent that lives in extensive burrows and plays a crucial role in dispersing CFR geophytes. Golden moles (various species and genera, listed as globally Threatened) are also endemic to the CFR and are unique among African insectivores for undergoing both daily and seasonal torpor.

Due to the structural uniformity of the vegetation and limited food supply, bird diversity in the CFR is low, ranking only 19th among the hotspots. However, with nearly 300 species and six endemics, the region is still considered a High Priority Endemic Bird Area by BirdLife International. Among the endemics, the Cape sugarbird and orange-breasted sunbird are avian flagships for the CFR based on their attractiveness and critical role in the ecosystem as pollinators of many fynbos plants.

Reptiles and amphibians are also well represented in the CFR fauna. Among the five Mediterranean-type hotspots, the CFR ranks first in amphibian diversity as well as in endemism per unit area of natural vegetation (both original extent and intact remnant vegetation). Over 55% of the 44 frog taxa recorded in the CFR are endemic. Reptile diversity is also impressive, with 142 indigenous taxa, 27 of which are endemic. Two species of tortoises occur almost exclusively within the CFR, while two others occur in the CFR and adjacent parts of Namibia.

Indigenous freshwater fishes are a priority group for conservation within the CFR. Of the 19 species found in the CFR, 16 are endemic. Alarming is, nine species are Endangered or Critically Endangered, four are Vulnerable and another two are near-threatened. The southwestern CFR, where the majority of these species occur, is recognized as an important center of ichthyofaunal diversity in Africa. The most notable fish habitat is the Olifants River in the northwest CFR, with ten indigenous species, eight of which are endemic and Threatened.

Although less is known about the invertebrate fauna of the CFR, the few groups that have been studied suggest not only very high levels of endemism reaching 100% in some groups, but also many phylogenetically distinctive species. Many of the species are very unusual or are confined to very small geographical areas whether on mountain tops, caves or in streams. Of the 234 species of butterfly in the region, 72 are endemic. There is also a remarkable assemblage and diversity of earthworms in and near the CFR, including the largest earthworm in the world (seven meters long) and 90 endemic acanthodriline species, often with highly restricted distributions in woodland patches.

**Levels of Protection for Biodiversity**

According to the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the CFR has the greatest concentration of Threatened plant species in the world. Among the CFR flora, 1,406 species are on the IUCN’s
Red List of endangered plants; nearly 300 are on the brink of extinction, and 29 are already extinct in the wild. In addition, six species of butterflies, six dragonflies, 15 fish, five amphibians, five reptiles, 12 birds, and 21 mammals are Threatened. Almost one-third of the natural habitat in the CFR has been lost to urbanization, agriculture, and forestry, and the remaining natural habitat is threatened by invasive alien plants.

**Status of Protected Areas in the Cape Floristic Region**

The extent of protected areas in the CFR is encouraging. Approximately 20% of the region enjoys some form of conservation status, and nearly 10,000 square kilometers of this area are protected in official nature reserves and national parks. The majority of statutory conservation areas in the CFR are protected under provincial legislation in the Western and Eastern Cape Provinces. National legislative protection, in the form of six national parks and four forest reserves, applies to less than 1% of the total protected area.

Despite its extent, the protected area network does not adequately protect biodiversity or natural processes in the CFR. Approximately 95% of all protected land is in mountain habitats; only 4.5% of the original extent of lowland *fynbos* and only 0.6% of *renosterveld* is protected (Fig. 2). Parcels of smaller than 10 square kilometers or less account for approximately 25% of all protected land; while these reserves are important, they do not sustain the ecological and evolutionary processes essential to the long-term persistence of the CFR’s diverse plant populations (e.g. functional riparian ecosystems, migration corridors, natural fire cycles, sand movements, and viable populations of large herbivores).

![Map of Cape Floristic Region](image)

**Fig. 2:** Distribution of current statutory reserves in the Cape Floristic Region. Approximately 95% of the total reserve area is in mountain habitats, leaving important biodiversity in the lowland habitats vulnerable.
The status of conservation in the CFR is also reflected by the level of support dedicated to management of natural resources. Within protected areas, according to a recent study, a 65% increase in funding is required for proper management of the current reserve network. Government funding decreased by 40% from 1995-2000, and more recent cuts have decreased the operating budget by another 60%, adversely affecting staff training, environmental education programs, control of alien vegetation, and efforts to engage private-sector stakeholders in conservation efforts.

**SYNOPSIS OF THREATS**

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<th>THREAT</th>
<th>KEY COMPONENTS</th>
<th>EXAMPLES</th>
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<td><strong>Land transformation</strong></td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>26% of total region and 96% of CFR renosterveld converted for cultivation</td>
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<td>Urban Expansion</td>
<td>Wine, olives, and cut flower cultivation expanding rapidly</td>
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<td>Urban growth in Cape Town (2% per year)</td>
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<td><strong>Ecosystem degradation</strong></td>
<td>Invasive alien species</td>
<td>43% of the Cape Peninsula is covered in alien vegetation</td>
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<td>An estimated 750 species of plants are threatened with extinction from invading alien species</td>
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<td><strong>Institutional constraints to conservation action</strong></td>
<td>Lack of coordinated information on the CFR biodiversity</td>
<td>Agencies do not share information relevant to effective conservation planning</td>
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<td>Fragmented legal and institutional frameworks</td>
<td>Existing laws provide disincentives for natural habitat protection</td>
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<td>Insufficient human resources</td>
<td>Few conservation professionals, particularly lacking GIS, project management, and extension skills</td>
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<td><strong>Lack of public involvement in conservation</strong></td>
<td>Lack of public information on benefits of biodiversity</td>
<td>Few environmental education programs</td>
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<td>Lack of mechanisms for private involvement in conservation</td>
<td>Limited promotion of mechanisms for private conservation action</td>
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<td>Limited participation by disadvantaged people in conservation activities</td>
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**Land Transformation**

The greatest threat to biodiversity in the CFR is agricultural and urban expansion. Agricultural land use has already consumed 26% of the CFR and has devastated lowland areas — 96% of *renosterveld* and 49% of *fynbos* habitats have been converted (Fig. 3). Even in mountain areas, where agriculture is limited by poor soils, rooibos tea, honeybush tea, and ornamental flower cultivation (mainly proteas) is rapidly encroaching on natural habitat. Economic incentives
aimed at creating jobs and increasing agricultural exports fail to include regulations to protect biodiversity. In addition, with increasing international demand for South African wine, innovations in viticulture and the introduction of crops that can grow on steeper slopes with lower rainfall (e.g. olives) have contributed to projections that an additional 15-30% of the remaining natural habitat will be converted to agriculture within the next 20 years. Furthermore, the booming fruit and viticulture industries require heavy water extraction, which reduces stream flow and has substantial ecological impact.

Human settlements are also encroaching on threatened lowland habitats, and urbanization is expected to encompass more than 9% of the CFR by 2020. Approximately 5 million people live in the region — 3 million in Cape Town — and the estimated 2% growth rate for the city poses a threat to the remaining lowland habitat nearby. Uncontrolled development also threatens much of the CFR coastline, encroaching on important dune and coastal shrubland habitats.

Fig. 3: Extent and distribution of land conversion in the CFR. Agriculture and forestry have particularly affected the lowland areas in the southern and western CFR.

**Ecosystem Degradation**

While land conversion continues outside protected areas, ecosystem degradation jeopardizes conservation efforts throughout the CFR. Pollution, overgrazing and overharvesting of plant species are examples of degradation that affect ecosystem processes in the region, but the invasion of alien species poses the second-greatest threat to biodiversity (after land conversion) in the CFR.
The proliferation of alien plants in CFR ecosystems is alarming. There is no other place on Earth, excluding islands, where alien plants have invaded natural vegetation to a comparable extent. Nearly 2% of the CFR is covered in alien plant species in stands so dense as to constitute land conversion. An additional 1% is in medium-density stands, and another 70% of the remaining natural habitat is covered by low-density or scattered patches of alien plants. Alien fauna, including trout and the smallmouth black bass, are having adverse effects on the indigenous fish fauna and aquatic ecosystems. Marine invasives such as the European mussel are also posing a problem.

Coastal and lowland habitats are particularly susceptible to the threat of invasive plants, and in many of these habitats more than 25% of the ground is covered with alien plants in medium or high densities. Of the 60% of the Cape Peninsula that remains undeveloped, 11% is currently under dense stands of alien plants and another 33% is lightly invaded. Pines and woody *Acacia* and *Hakea* present the greatest threats in terms of extent and difficulty of removal. Without adequate measures to control invasive plants, approximately 30% of remaining natural vegetation is likely to be invaded within the next 20 years, and at least 750 species will face extinction in the next 50 to 100 years as a result.

The impact of alien invasives is highly synergistic with other impacts such as impact of trout, livestock and overconsumption of water. However, the recent removal of invasive alien plants is having an enormous positive impact on the aquatic invertebrate fauna.

Invasive species also have many negative secondary effects on ecosystem processes. Government studies have shown that alien vegetation consumes 7% of the region’s water supply, degrading riparian areas and causing soil erosion. The spread of dense stands of alien plant species has also disrupted natural fire cycles, threatening veld habitats and native fauna. Although many of the habitats in the CFR depend on fire disturbance to maintain ecosystem functions, accelerated fire cycles can lead to local extinctions of many plant and animal species. Increased frequency of fires also results in a vicious cycle affecting civic institutions: conservation funds are diverted to emergency firefighting, leading to reduced capacities to mitigate invasion by alien species, leading to larger fires and more resources being diverted to firefighting.

**Institutional Constraints to Conservation Action**

The extent of land conversion and degradation in the CFR can generally be traced to lack of appropriate institutions with needed capacity to support conservation efforts. Although there is a great deal of biodiversity information relevant to land use decision-making, it is not well integrated into conservation planning. Owing to the range of institutions investigating various elements of the CFR’s biodiversity, it is difficult for policymakers and land use planners to know how and where to get information relevant to their areas. Some organizations in possession of a great deal of data lack the capacity to manage its distribution. As a result, environmental impact assessments (EIAs) and plans fail to consider biodiversity in their recommendations and inadvertently threaten biodiversity, despite the fact that EIAs are mandatory by law.
Legal protection for biodiversity outside protected areas is erratic and outdated. With approximately 80% of the CFR’s land privately owned, conservation will largely depend on the development and enforcement of land use regulations. Existing mechanisms encouraging private protection of biodiversity are poorly applied, and there are few disincentives to destructive land use. Development is a significant threat to coastal areas in the CFR and regulatory laws are particularly weak, resulting in fragmented landscapes, inappropriate land use, and unsustainable resource management. The national government is seeking to address this problem through an ecoregional approach to land use planning; however, the lack of mechanisms to implement this approach remains a problem.

South Africa has a long history of conservation and enjoys the services of many respected conservation planners and managers; however, while conservation professionals in the region are highly skilled, there are too few of them in place to handle conservation activities on the scale required. Representation of disadvantaged people in the conservation community is especially limited. If biodiversity in the CFR is to be protected, the capacity to develop, manage, and implement conservation programs must be expanded rapidly through mentorship programs. In addition, to establish conservation goals as standards for land use decision-making, it is necessary to increase the technical capacity of staff in relevant agencies.

**Lack of public involvement in conservation**

The future of the CFR will only be assured if the public can be educated about the value of its biodiversity and if this knowledge can be translated into participation and political action. Under the apartheid regime, the majority of South Africans were denied access to the region’s resources, and few were exposed to environmental education programs. Historically, conservation has been considered a mandate of the state, and few mechanisms have been developed to stimulate private-sector participation. As South Africa develops new policies to promote regional development, biodiversity awareness must be enhanced among politicians, landowners, and the public; each sector must recognize its role as a steward of the CFR’s biological wealth or risk sacrificing the resources that will provide the potential for long-term economic growth.

Moreover, it should be emphasized again that 80% of the land in CFR is in private hands. Lack of involvement by the viticulture and flower industries is, in particular, a great impediment to the conservation of biodiversity throughout the region.

**SYNOPSIS OF CURRENT INVESTMENTS**

National, provincial, and local governments have historically invested significantly in conservation. Approximately $800,000 per year is invested in management of national and provincial reserves, and the national government invests $350,000 per year in a program aimed at creating jobs and clearing alien vegetation in mountain catchment areas. Although conservation remains a priority for South Africa, government funding is increasingly focusing on social issues, and conservation agencies, as a result, have to take measures to reduce their reliance on government funds. Accordingly, many conservation efforts now depend on foreign donor support.
Apart from management, current investment in conservation in the CFR falls into the categories of planning, expansion of protected areas, ecosystem rehabilitation, research, landowner involvement, and environmental education.

**Conservation planning:** As part of CAPE, a comprehensive and systematic planning effort was developed that identifies areas of the greatest priority at the 1:250,000 scale for achieving conservation targets for Broad Habitat Units. The plan was the first of its kind to systematically select priority areas based on conservation targets for biodiversity pattern, current species diversity and distributions, and ecological processes, the natural mechanisms that ensure the persistence of this diversity and its evolution. In addition to the landscape-level conservation planning effort in CAPE, finer-scale plans for the West Coast, Agulhas Plain, and Baviaanskloof have been developed with GEF funds. With support from the TMF, the Botanical Society of South Africa is also engaged in prioritizing and planning conservation efforts for the lowland habitat remnants.

As part of the BirdLife International program, the Important Bird Area’s Conservation Programme (part-funded by GEF) has identified specific sites within the CFR of international importance for avian conservation. Nine IBAs are critical to the six birds endemic to the CFR: Olifants River Estuary, Lower Berg River Wetlands, West Coast National Park, Overberg Wheatbelt and De Hoop Nature Reserve plus the mountains of Swartberg, Eastern False Bay, Outeniqua and Southern Langeberg. The IBA concept is a site-based approach to conservation that uses birds as the primary indicators of priority sites based on four internationally recognized criteria concerning the presence of globally threatened species, species that have a highly restricted range, species unique to a particular biome, and significant congregations of species. An account of the IBAs is available in BirdLife South Africa’s publication *Important Bird Areas of Southern Africa*.

**Expansion of protected areas:** A $2 million GEF grant has facilitated development of the Cape Peninsula National Park, protecting biodiversity in several mountain areas within Cape Town Municipality. The involvement of several government agencies, community settlements, and private landowners in this project provides many lessons for efforts to create other protected areas. With the support of Flora and Fauna International, SANP is working to establish the Agulhas National Park in important lowland areas of the Agulhas Plain. This initiative is one of the flagship projects under the umbrella of CAPE and has been included in a PDF-B proposal to the GEF seeking $3 million.

**Ecosystem rehabilitation through removal of alien plants:** The Working for Water Programme, a 20-year program created in 1995 under the authority of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, has been widely cited as a successful combination of conservation and development. With funds from the national government and the GEF, the program has employed large numbers of laborers and managers from disadvantaged communities — and has cleared more than 200,000 hectares of alien vegetation, leading to the restoration of many important catchment areas.
Research: Significant national investment endows biological and ecological research scholarships at four universities in the CFR: the University of Cape Town, the University of Stellenbosch, the University of Port Elizabeth, and the University of the Western Cape. In addition, three of the many research projects currently funded at the National Botanical Institute (NBI) are relevant to conservation in the CFR: The Protea Atlas Project, integrating public involvement in the gathering of information on protea distributions in and beyond the CFR; a study supported by the GEF and CI’s Center for Applied Biodiversity Science (CABS) to model the impact of climate change on biodiversity in the CFR; and a project on “conservation farming,” also funded by the GEF. The focus of this emerging research program is to identify land use practices that achieve sustainable use of biological resources in agriculture and forestry. Research conducted by UCT’s Institute for Plant Conservation, and the Avian Demography Unit (e.g. the Bird Atlas and Frog Atlas projects) is relevant to the CFR. Although the research foundation is solid, the lack of mechanisms to coordinate such projects — and to ensure proper integration of their results into management applications — limits their impact.

Landowner involvement: The Botanical Society of South Africa has an ongoing project to support conservation by private landowners. To date, the program has focused on policy development, training of government extension staff, and support for local conservancy initiatives. Considering the potential for private conservation mechanisms in the CFR, this program is considerably underfunded and understaffed.

Environmental education: National government, the Cape Metropolitan Council, and the TMF have encouraged environmental education projects in the CFR by mainstreaming environmental education into school curricula and by funding special initiatives at the Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden and Driftsands Nature Reserve.

In December 2000, BirdLife South Africa’s Education Programme released its Learning for Sustainable Living book, which is being integrated as a resource into the National Education Curriculum. BLSA has set up structures for teacher training and distribution of this text in three of the nine provinces, including the Western Cape (in collaboration with the Primary Science Project). Fifteen hundred teachers representing approximately 300 schools have been trained, and the project will extend to the remaining provinces by end of 2003. This project is funded by the British National Lottery Fund with additional support from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Major recent investors in biodiversity conservation in the CFR are outlined below.

Multilateral Donors
Global Environment Facility: The GEF has been the primary international benefactor of conservation activities in the CFR since the mid-1990s. In August 1998, $6 million from this fund was provided to South African National Parks (SANP) and the World Wide Fund for Nature – South Africa to support conservation of biodiversity in the Cape Peninsula. Over 50% of this grant was awarded to the TMF to augment its capital fund and expand its operations from the Table Mountain area to include the entire CFR. Another $2 million of this grant was used by
SANP to consolidate and upgrade the Cape Peninsula Reserve to National Park status. The remaining $1 million was used to develop the CAPE. In line with its mandate, the CAPE Coordination Unit, with the World Bank as the lead agency and support from the UNDP, has submitted a PDF-B proposal to the GEF to refine an implementation plan for the 20-year CAPE strategy. This proposal requests $300,000 for further project development.

The GEF is also supporting the development of the national IBA program of BirdLife South Africa as part of a five-year African regional project.

**Nongovernmental Organizations**

**Mazda Wildlife Fund:** The Mazda Fund provides significant in-kind support to conservation programs throughout the CFR and South Africa in the form of vehicle donations. Organizations in the CFR supported by the Wildlife Fund, representing Mazda’s interests in the region, include the Botanical Society of South Africa, the National Botanical Institute, the CAPE Coordination Unit, the Institute for Plant Conservation, the Percy FitzPatrick Institute for African Ornithology, and BirdLife South Africa.

**World Wide Fund for Nature – South Africa:** WWF-SA generates revenue for conservation throughout South Africa through local campaigns as well as bilateral and multilateral fundraising. The organization invested approximately $2 million in the CFR in 1999-2000, focusing on land acquisition for protected areas.

**National Environmental Trusts**

**Table Mountain Fund:** This independent trust fund was launched by WWF-SA through a local campaign that raised more than $1 million for conservation of Table Mountain and the Cape Peninsula, icons of the natural beauty of Cape Town. The fund was augmented by GEF financing, and the interest — approximately $300,000 per year — provides the bulk of NGO support for conservation in the CFR today, including seed money for land acquisition, alien vegetation removal, capacity-building, and environmental education.

**The Green Trust:** A joint initiative of Nedbank-SA and WWF-SA to support sustainable conservation projects in South Africa, this initiative is much smaller than the TMF and, partly due to its national focus, this fund’s investment in conservation in the CFR is limited.

**POTENTIAL INVESTMENT IN CAPE IMPLEMENTATION and PROPOSED COMPLEMENTARITY WITH CEPF FUNDING**

A detailed description of various stakeholders, including mandates, funding, and staffing, is available in the institutional assessment produced by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Environmentek. The following list of key agencies provides an introduction to potential implementers of CAPE initiatives.
Government
Government agencies have developed proposals for significant funding to implement conservation activities based on the CAPE strategy. Since CEPF funding is intended to catalyze civil society involvement to complement this strategy, it is important to understand CAPE and ensure that the CEPF niche is defined in relation to government efforts. Therefore, government ministries and institutions involved in CAPE are described below.

National Agencies
Several national bodies involved in the development of CAPE will have integral roles in its implementation. CEPF funds will support capacity-building initiatives led by civil society participants whose goal is to integrate biodiversity concerns into activities of key government agencies, including:

- Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
- South African National Parks
- National Department of Agriculture
- Department of Water Affairs and Forestry
- Department of Land Affairs

In addition to these public agencies, two relevant national institutions have recently been privatized but operate in close coordination with the national government:

**Land Bank:** This lender provides farm mortgages at discount rates. The institution provides economic incentives for farming initiatives that demonstrate the potential to create jobs. Incorporation of biodiversity concerns into this institution’s lending policies could have a far-reaching conservation impact.

**Industrial Development Corporation:** Like the Land Bank, this institution provides incentives for large-scale industries with the potential to generate foreign exchange. The IDC’s Orchard and Ecotourism initiatives present both a threat and an opportunity for conservation in the CFR, since both initiatives currently fail to incorporate biodiversity concerns into their policies.

Provincial Agencies
The provincial governments of the Eastern Cape and Western Cape will be involved at various levels in the implementation of conservation plans for the CFR, and provincial government funding for CAPE will be distributed through activities within provincial ministries, including:

- Department of Environment, Culture and Sport
- Department of Economic Affairs, Agriculture, and Tourism
- Department of Planning, Housing and Local Government

Parastatals and Government Agencies
The provincial authorities of the Cape Provinces have established parastatal agencies to increase efficiency and promote fiscal responsibility in the management of provincial land. The Western Cape Nature Conservation Board and Eastern Cape Nature Conservation Board in the CFR are
responsible for overseeing all activities within provincial reserves — particularly those activities related to fiscal responsibility and strategic partnerships. The conservation capacity of the Eastern Cape Nature Conservation Board is severely limited by lack of human and financial resources.

Similarly, at the national level, the National Botanical Institute (NBI) is responsible for recommending biodiversity policy and conducting ecoregional planning. Given the potential for testing conservation policy mechanisms within the CAPE strategy, the CAPE Coordination Unit has been recently established as a department of the NBI.

Municipalities
South Africa is decentralizing many administrative functions of government to the provincial and municipal level, a transition that will expand the potential role of municipalities in conservation. Specific areas for cooperation with local authorities include land use decision-making; policies providing for removal of alien vegetation; and a new rural property tax.

Nongovernmental Organizations
The CFR enjoys the support of many NGOs dedicated to preserving its unique flora and fauna. NGOs dedicated to the conservation and promotion of sustainable land use, such as those listed below, will be the primary civil society agents participating in pilot activities under CAPE. It is expected, however, that increasing awareness of CAPE efforts will stimulate new grassroots organizations and an expanded network of organizations and individuals working to achieve CAPE’s long-term goal.

International NGOs
Flora and Fauna International: FFI is designing a model conservation and sustainable development project in the Agulhas Plain region, working with a local community in Flower Valley to sustainably harvest and export indigenous flowers. The project will preserve 5.5 square kilometers of natural vegetation. FFI is also a major stakeholder in the Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative, a separate proposal currently in the GEF pipeline, for conservation activities in the area.

Conservation International: CI – South Africa is a newcomer to conservation in the CFR. With limited human resources but significant technical capacity in the region, CI will not initiate an expansive program, but will provide technical assistance and liaison work on special initiatives that could benefit from the global expertise in CI’s Center for Applied Biodiversity Science and the Center for Environmental Leadership in Business.

BirdLife International: The world’s leading authority on bird conservation, BLI is a network of national NGO partner organizations — in this case, BirdLife South Africa. BLI, through BLSA, holds information on globally Threatened birds and Important Bird Areas in the CFR. BLI and BLSA will continue to make the most up-to-date information available to stakeholders through their World Bird Database. This global expertise will considerably strengthen CEPF’s ability to consolidate data to support appropriate land use and other policy decisions.
**National NGOs**

**WWF – South Africa:** WWF-SA has been at the forefront of conservation efforts in the CFR. The organization has a strong local presence and significant ability to raise funds and awareness in the region. In addition, it has substantial influence on conservation activities through its operational support for CAPE, the TMF, and the Leslie Hill Succulent Trust.

**Botanical Society of South Africa:** The Botanical Society, with 25,000 members, has promoted the conservation of indigenous flora in South Africa since 1913. The Botanical Society’s new Cape Conservation Unit plays an important role in conservation, and its activities include advocacy, planning, research, and implementation. Taking the lead from the CAPE recommendations, this group is prioritizing lowland areas for conservation and enhancing opportunities for private conservation.

**Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa:** WESSA, founded in 1927, has demonstrated ability to organize grassroots conservation efforts such as lobbying, monitoring water quality, and providing environmental education. The organization’s experience in these areas, as well as its membership base in the CFR, make it an important stakeholder in the implementation of CAPE.

**BirdLife South Africa and the Cape Bird Club:** BirdLife South Africa’s mission is to promote the enjoyment, conservation, understanding and study of wild birds for the benefit of all people. The Cape Bird Club, BirdLife South Africa’s largest branch, is located in Cape Town. BirdLife South Africa is a newcomer to conservation in the CFR. Through its Education Programme, IBA Conservation Programme and Ecotourism and Guide Training Programme, BirdLife South Africa is demonstrating its interest in supporting grassroots conservation in the CFR.

**Academic Institutions**

The scientific input from research institutions in the CFR resulted in CAPE enjoying broad support for its comprehensive and innovative approaches. The continued involvement of these research institutes will ensure relevant scientific input at the implementation stage. In addition, university-affiliated research institutes in the region will lead efforts to draw a broader segment of the South African community, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, into conservation. Such institutes include:

- Institute for Plant Conservation, University of Cape Town
- Invertebrate Conservation Research Centre, University of Natal
- Percy FitzPatrick Institute for African Ornithology, University of Cape Town
- Freshwater Research Unit, UCT
- Marine Biology Research Institute, UCT
- Terrestrial Ecology Research Unit, University of Port Elizabeth
- Nature Conservation Department, University of Stellenbosch
- Elsenberg College of Agriculture
- Program for Land and Agrarian Studies, University of the Western Cape
Private Sector and Community Groups
Conservation awareness in the CFR is fairly high among a small segment of the region’s population, and this awareness can be leveraged into conservation results. In addition, there are many opportunities to provide an impetus for conservation action among disadvantaged groups seeking new sources of livelihood from the region’s natural resources. Some examples follow.

Fynbos Forum: An informal organization of researchers and managers in the fynbos biome who meet regularly to facilitate sharing of scientific information and practical experience. This organization is an excellent model of an initiative to address the gap between academic research and managers.

Western Conservancies Association: Formed in 1999 as an umbrella group for more than 40 private conservancies in the western CFR, the WCA represents its members’ interests to the national government and provides a marketing platform for tourism enterprises.

Fynbos Ecotourism Forum: Like the WCA, this body was formed to coordinate private landowners involved in ecotourism activities that are dependent on the conservation of fynbos.

CEPF NICHE FOR INVESTMENT IN THE REGION
Based on a synopsis of threats, current capacity, and anticipated investments in conservation of the CFR, the remainder of this ecosystem profile outlines the proposed niche for CEPF funding.

CEPF is designed to expedite funding in areas where it is most needed and where it will do the most good. CEPF acknowledges the rigorous priority-setting process of CAPE described earlier in this profile, and through a process of wide consultation, has identified a niche to catalyze civil society action on the most urgent geographic and thematic priorities. In the broad-scale spatial plan for CAPE, over 60% of the remaining natural vegetation of the CFR was targeted for conservation action. Remnants of the last remaining natural veld in lowland areas were identified as “irreplaceable” conservation priorities. Additionally, four sites with adequate natural habitat to create conservation units greater than 500,000 hectares were identified as potential regions for biodiversity corridors, or “mega-reserves” as they are called in the CFR. These areas encompass properties under various ownership that support conservation through the protection of ecosystem processes such as catchments, riparian ecosystems, and natural fire cycles. The protection of the CFR’s biodiversity in the face of the threat of climate change was also considered in CAPE’s identification of the location and size of the corridors. Obviously, it is not practical or realistic to acquire all of this land for formal protected areas; therefore, innovative civil society efforts will be critical to the realization of CAPE’s goals. South African National Parks has successfully launched initiatives in the Agulhas Plain lowland area and the Garden Route Mega-Reserve area. CEPF investment will therefore focus on civil society led activities in lowland habitat remnants beyond the Agulhas Plain and the Cedarberg, Gouritz, and Baviaanskloof corridors (Fig. 4).
CEPF INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND PROGRAM FOCUS

Within the targeted geographic areas, CEPF will complement other funding sources to augment the strength and capacity of the institutional structures being developed to implement CAPE. Through a focus on NGOs and private sector participation, CEPF will fill an important funding niche to implement key components of this plan. CEPF funding will complement support provided by other donors to government and other stakeholders, and will support innovative mechanisms and projects that involve local communities and the private sector as models for implementation of the CAPE 20-year strategy.

CEPF acknowledges that the innovation and strength of the CAPE strategy is its ability to unify donor interest and funding on the highest priorities for the conservation of the CFR. Such coordination is unprecedented at the scale of a biodiversity hotspot, and the results can only
increase the ability to share lessons among projects and ensure more effective use of conservation funds.

The following table summarizes the strategic funding directions for CEPF:

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<th>CEPF Strategic Directions</th>
<th>CEPF Investment Priorities</th>
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| **1. Support civil society involvement in the establishment of protected areas and management plans in CFR biodiversity corridors** | 1. 1 Through civil society efforts identify and design innovative mechanisms and strategies for conservation of private, corporate or communal landholdings within biodiversity corridors  
1. 2 Support private sector and local community participation in the development and implementation of management plans for biodiversity corridors  
1. 3 Especially within the Gouritz and Cedarberg corridors, identify priority landholdings requiring immediate conservation action |
| **2. Promote innovative private sector and community involvement in conservation in landscapes surrounding CFR biodiversity corridors** | 2. 1 Promote civil society efforts to establish and support biodiversity-based businesses among disadvantaged groups, in particular in areas surrounding the Gouritz and Baviaanskloof corridors  
2. 2 Implement best practices within industries affecting biodiversity in the CFR, e.g. the wine and flower industries. |
| **3. Support civil society efforts to create an institutional environment that enables effective conservation action** | 3. 1 Support civil society efforts to consolidate data to support appropriate land use and policy decisions  
3. 2 Support civil society initiatives to integrate biodiversity concerns into policy and local government procedures in priority municipalities  
3. 3 Improve coordination among institutions involved in conservation of CFR biodiversity corridors through targeted civil society interventions |
| **4. Establish a small grants fund to build capacity among institutions and individuals working on conservation in the CFR** | 4. 1 Support internships and training programs to raise capacity for conservation, particularly targeting previously disadvantaged groups  
4. 2 Support initiatives to increase technical capacity of organizations involved in CFR conservation, particularly in relation to the priority geographic areas |
Support civil society involvement in the establishment of protected areas and management plans in CFR biodiversity corridors

CEPF will support civil society activities that entail conservation and management planning efforts in the irreplaceable and vulnerable lowland habitats and in the three corridors (Cedarberg, Gouritz, and the Baviaanskloof). Conservation plans developed by civil society agents and supported by CEPF will be expected to identify priority areas and recommend strategies to include them in an integrated network of protected state and private lands. Incentives and cooperative arrangements for the creation and management of protected areas have not been fully explored as a strategic approach to conservation in the CFR. While there are some examples of successful private conservancies, participation in such projects — particularly by disadvantaged communities — is still limited by lack of awareness and incentives. While CEPF funds cannot support capitalization of trust funds or land acquisition, they can support civil society efforts to study and implement other mechanisms in the CFR. Monitoring the successes and failures of pilot mechanisms is an important element of the CEPF strategy.

In places where private landowners have taken the initiative to protect their land, they often lack the financial capacity to undertake legal arrangements, clearing of aliens, fencing of sensitive habitats, or rehabilitation of degraded areas that are threatening conservation sites. These constraints can undermine the original achievement of convincing private landowners to protect biodiversity, and can thus allow patterns of conversion and invasion to continue. Therefore, while personal financial commitment will still be required, CEPF grants will be available to conservancies and other community groups to increase their capacity to mitigate threats. Finally, CEPF will support opportunities to secure formal recognition of these private conservation ventures through policy and legislative measures such as conservancies, contractual parks, and UNESCO Biosphere Reserves. CEPF funding will thus support the development of models for replication in the emerging areas of private and community stewardship.

CEPF will catalyze projects that leverage funds with support from the CI’s Global Conservation Fund and WWF–SA to acquire land and stimulate establishment of trusts, and support from CI’s Center for Applied Biodiversity Science and Center for Environmental Leadership in Business for innovative conservation mechanisms and industry best practices. By working within the CAPE framework, facilitating key activities and encouraging innovative opportunities for civil society participation, CEPF will provide a flexible, responsive funding mechanism to support a robust and unified approach to conservation in the CFR. Such collaboration will ensure the continuity of the momentum generated by CAPE and ensure that civil society has opportunities to contribute to long-term conservation in the CFR.

Management plans for new protected areas will also be a CEPF investment priority within this strategic funding direction. Support may be provided for workshops or other mechanisms to ensure that NGOs, local government, and the public near proposed protected areas participate fully in planning and management. The Botanical Society’s Cape Flats Project and SANP’s approach to the development of Agulhas National Park illustrate such approaches.
CEPF will support the identification of private lands requiring conservation action, particularly in the Gouritz and Cedarberg corridors. Given the range and scale of threats to the biodiversity of the CFR and the limited budget of conservation agencies, it is urgent to identify and prioritize areas for conservation action. A landscape-level plan (1:250,000 resolution) was developed as part of CAPE that recommends priority areas for achieving conservation targets for biodiversity representation and persistence. While the broader plan indicates the location of the most important components and linkages in the CFR landscape, further investigation and field-based verification is required to fine-tune this analysis for use by planners and decision-makers at the level of individual properties to ensure their effective implementation. The Gouritz and Cedarberg corridors are regarded as priorities for this activity, because the process has already advanced in the other priority geographic areas.

Promote innovative private sector and community involvement in conservation in landscapes surrounding CFR biodiversity corridors

With 80% of the CFR in private hands, CEPF seeks to promote integration of conservation with private stewardship responsibilities, opportunities for public/private partnerships, and industry best practices. CEPF will particularly encourage innovative approaches that involve private landholders in land stewardship and will address threats from land conversion and degradation of ecosystems in the region while promoting sustainable development. Specifically, CEPF will contribute to direct conservation by supporting pilot projects and extension activities that will influence private agents and community groups to implement conservation activities.

The natural resources of the CFR — and their conservation — provide opportunities to create jobs and income in disadvantaged communities. Ecotourism, sustainable flower harvesting, removal of alien vegetation, and wilderness education camps have already been developed on a limited scale to benefit these communities. CEPF will support innovative, sustainable projects that promote the conservation of biodiversity as part of well-developed business plans. This support will primarily be targeted at activities surrounding the Gouritz and Baviaanskloof corridors, because it is in these areas that communities own land.

For example, the training of ecotourism guides from local communities of previously disadvantaged people is a means whereby these stakeholders can profit directly from biodiversity. Although plant diversity is high, birding ecotourism is a well-established industry in the CFR and South Africa generally. Specialized training as guides accredited by the Tourism, Hospitality, Sport, Education Training Authority (THETA), and therefore consistent with new policies of the South African government, will provide jobs that depend directly on sustainable biodiversity conservation.

Several industries threaten biodiversity in the CFR. In cooperation with the Center for Environmental Leadership in Business, important industries such as wine, cut flowers, and tourism will be targeted for efforts to assess and implement best practices. Organizations of industry players, such as South African Protea Producers and Exporters, Wine-growers Associations, and WineTech will be key partners in such initiatives. It is also expected that
CEPF investment in this arena can be leveraged to address land conversion in other hotspots by replicating successful approaches identified in the CFR.

**Support civil society efforts to create an institutional environment that enables effective conservation action**

The biodiversity of the CFR will only be protected if a coherent and efficient institutional framework for conservation can be established. Significant obstacles to the development of such an environment include limited access to biological knowledge; fragmented laws, policies and institutions; and insufficient human resources. CEPF will address these challenges through initiatives that support the consolidation of biodiversity information, development of appropriate legislation and policies, and coordination and strengthening of local institutions responsible for activities that affect biodiversity.

Conservation efforts must be based on a clear understanding of ecological patterns and processes and the conditions that threaten them. While the volume and quality of biodiversity data in the CFR is tremendous compared to other hotspots, difficulty in accessing the information has resulted in limited application to land use and policy decisions. CEPF will support efforts to ensure that sound biological information is incorporated into planning and decision-making throughout the CFR. The Conservation Planning Unit (CPU) of the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board has been proposed to maintain and refine the databases on threats and priority habitats within the hotspot and to initiate and maintain links with other institutions to facilitate the use of biodiversity information in decision-making arenas. For example, CPU staff will leverage existing knowledge of C-plan, a computer program that uses GIS and conservation targets to identify priority areas for municipal land use plans.

South Africa is in the process of reviewing and updating legislation that may have dramatic long-term impact on conservation in the CFR. CEPF grants will support the creation of incentives for conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in the CFR. As incentive legislation is finalized, its implementation can often be hindered by lack of understanding or capacity among organizations, government agencies, and the public. CEPF will therefore support activities enabling local authorities to facilitate on-the-ground interpretation and activation of policy enforcement to maximize benefits for biodiversity. Finally, CEPF will support initiatives to monitor successes and failures of new legislation related to biodiversity and land use.

Effective conservation requires integration of biodiversity concerns into the work of all relevant agencies and, in particular, collaboration between agencies responsible for activities that affect biodiversity. Accordingly, a strategic focus of CEPF will be to ensure the coordination of conservation activities in the CFR.

The CAPE Coordination Unit will play a crucial role in bringing together NGOs, private-sector experts, and government agencies, building capacities for project development and ensuring sustainable funding for CAPE. The CAPE Coordination Unit will also serve as a liaison to government agencies — e.g. Agriculture, Housing, and Urban Planning — which may not be
directly concerned with biodiversity but whose actions can affect the success of the CAPE strategy.

**Establish a small grants fund to build capacity among institutions and individuals working on conservation in the CFR**

CEPF funds will help develop a small grants program to deliver funding of $10,000 or less to projects expanding human resources for conservation in the CFR. Through this initiative, CEPF will support the effort to develop technical skills among South African nationals, particularly those from previously disadvantaged communities. The criteria for evaluating applicants will include the ability to leverage existing capacity, and to promote an integrated approach to conservation.

The lack of an adequate force of professionals conversant in biodiversity issues is a major obstacle to effective conservation in the CFR. CEPF’s strategic focus, through the small grants program, will be to facilitate mentorship links between academic institutions and existing conservation agencies, focusing on trainees from disadvantaged communities. Through scholarships and exchanges, CEPF will support training of individuals to increase the number of people working in conservation and will fill a crucial niche in CAPE by expanding human resources to ensure sustainability of conservation in the region.

CEPF will support innovative programs that complement professional training in conservation organizations to maximize their contribution to conservation activities in the greater CFR landscape. CEPF support will emphasize technical skills to use innovative conservation tools, e.g. negotiation skills to engage with private landowners on off-reserve conservation activities; GIS skills; and conservation project management skills. While professional development is needed throughout the region, particular emphasis will be placed on organizations involved with the CFR biodiversity corridors.

**SUSTAINABILITY**

Guided by this ecosystem profile, CEPF will contribute to long-term conservation in the CFR through targeted investments to leverage existing capacity in formal reserves; to shift conservation focus into private and community stewardship of biodiversity in the wider landscape; to promote integration of biodiversity issues into the policy decisions of all relevant agencies; to facilitate public/private partnerships; and to generate public support for conservation. While activities in these strategic directions will naturally address immediate threats to biodiversity in the short term, commitment to capacity-building and sustained collaborations will be a key criterion in the application review process, ensuring positive long-term impact.

The coordination of CEPF activities and strategic funding directions to provide additional support and complementarity to the objectives of CAPE ensures sustainability beyond the immediate five-year investment. Building the capacity of civil society organizations is essential not only to the effective use of CEPF funds, but to ensure continued innovation in the implementation of the CAPE strategy that extends well beyond the scope of CEPF. In addition,
the relationships developed by CEPF for conservation in the CFR will support further collaboration in another hotspot, the Succulent Karoo, also located mostly in South Africa. Such coordination can be a precursor to development of the only corridor connecting two hotspots.

**CONCLUSION**

The Cape Floristic Region is one of the biological wonders of the world, with levels of diversity and endemism that rival and even surpass those of many tropical forest ecosystems. The increasing threats to this unique region have compelled significant global, national, and local commitment to a comprehensive plan for its conservation, the Cape Action Plan for the Environment. CEPF provides a source of funding in the CFR designed to reach NGOs in a way that complements funding for government agencies and other stakeholders; supports the framework established by CAPE; ensures that civil society has an opportunity to contribute to conservation; and provides a flexible, responsive funding mechanism for innovative conservation activities. By aligning its focus with the national priorities of South Africa and the conservation goals of CAPE, CEPF will augment efforts to address immediate threats and contribute to long-term conservation in the CFR, developing a model of sustainable regional conservation efforts to be replicated throughout Africa and other biodiversity hotspots around the world.
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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>BLSA</td>
<td>BirdLife South Africa</td>
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<td>CABS</td>
<td>Center for Applied Biodiversity Science</td>
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<td>CAPE</td>
<td>Cape Action Plan for the Environment</td>
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<td>CEPF</td>
<td>Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund</td>
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<td>CFK</td>
<td>Cape Floral Kingdom</td>
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<td>CFR</td>
<td>Cape Floristic Region</td>
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<td>CI</td>
<td>Conservation International</td>
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<td>CITES</td>
<td>Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species</td>
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<td>CPU</td>
<td>Conservation Planning Unit</td>
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<td>FFI</td>
<td>Flora and Fauna International</td>
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<td>GEF</td>
<td>Global Environment Facility</td>
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<td>GIS</td>
<td>geographic information systems</td>
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<td>Industrial Development Corporation</td>
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An Overview of CEPF’s Portfolio in the Cape Floristic Region

The Cape Floristic Region is located at the southwestern tip of Africa and lies within the borders of South Africa. Its high concentration of endemic plant taxa, large number of species, and vulnerability to processes that threaten its unique biodiversity contribute to its global recognition as a biodiversity hotspot. The Cape Floristic Region is remarkable in that it contains 3 percent of the world’s plant species on only 0.05 percent of the land area. The region is notable not only for its diversity of plant species (9,000), but also for its high levels of endemism. New data released in 2005 following a global hotspots reanalysis indicates that nearly 70 percent of the region’s plants are endemic. The 78,555-square-kilometer hotspot also boasts considerable diversity and endemism amongst the fauna, with for example, over 55 percent of the 44 frog taxa being endemic, and 14 of the 35 freshwater fishes being endemic. Invertebrate diversity is noteworthy as well.

The greatest threat to biodiversity in the region is agricultural and urban expansion. Agricultural land use has already consumed 26 percent of the hotspot and has devastated lowland areas – 96 percent of renosterveld and 49 percent of fynbos habitats have been converted. The invasion of alien species is regarded as the second greatest threat, and there is no other place on Earth (excluding islands) where aliens plants have invaded natural vegetation to a comparable extent. Nearly 2 percent of the Cape Floristic Region is covered in stands of alien plants so dense as to constitute land conversion. An additional 1 percent is in medium-density stands, while a startling 70 percent of the remaining natural vegetation is covered by low-density stands or scattered patches of alien plants. Alien fauna have also taken their toll, with trout and smallmouth black bass eradicating indigenous fishes in some freshwater ecosystems. Additional threats include the lack of a coordinated approach to conservation planning and management, fragmented legal and institutional frameworks, insufficient technical capacity, and lack of public awareness of the importance of conservation. The last factor is particularly important, as more than 80 percent of land in the region is held by private or communal landowners.

Niche for CEPF Investment

CEPF grantmaking commenced in December 2001 with the approval of the ecosystem profile and an allocation of $6 million to be spent over five years. CEPF’s strategy for investment is based on the Cape Action Plan for the Environment (C.A.P.E.). C.A.P.E. was developed from 1998 to 2000 with funding from GEF and the World Bank, and managed by WWF-South Africa. C.A.P.E. was a two-year participatory process involving nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), communities, and government and private sector representatives aimed at developing an action plan for the long-term conservation of the biodiversity in the Cape. It was complemented by a significant investment in the consolidation and effective management of the Table Mountain National Park, and the capitalization of the Table Mountain Fund, a trust fund, the proceeds of which catalyze small and large projects that contribute to the strategy.
Following analysis of threats, opportunities, and the legal, social and economic and institutional contexts, and an analysis of scientific data on biodiversity and ecosystem processes, the group identified spatial outcomes and conservation priorities and articulated them in a 20-year action plan. As the plan moved into implementation the name was changed to Cape Action for People and the Environment to reinforce the importance of collaboration and the strong relationship of people to the environment. The development of the CEPF ecosystem profile for the Cape region identified the most critical niche for CEPF investment within the broader C.A.P.E. initiative and vis a vis other donors.

The implementation of C.A.P.E. has been planned to take place in three distinct phases over 20 years, with the first two phases supported by GEF and other donors, and the third phase supported via domestic financing. CEPF's niche for investment in the Cape builds upon the C.A.P.E. planning process and aims to catalyze civil society action on the most urgent geographic and thematic priorities. Within the targeted geographic areas, CEPF sought to complement other funding sources to augment the strength and capacity of the institutional structures being developed to implement C.A.P.E. Through a focus on NGOs and private sector participation, CEPF planned to fill an important funding niche to implement key components of the action plan. Throughout, CEPF has sought to support innovative mechanisms and projects that can serve as a model for implementation of the 20-year strategy. The timing of CEPF’s investment in the region was such that it played an important bridging role for the C.A.P.E. strategy – supporting important initial pilot projects until the GEF investment was fully secured.

The CEPF strategy is described in the CEPF ecosystem profile, and includes the following strategic directions that guide CEPF investment in the region.

1. Support civil society involvement in the establishment of protected areas and management plans in Cape Floristic Region biodiversity corridors.
2. Promote innovative private sector and community involvement in conservation landscapes surrounding Cape Floristic Region biodiversity corridors.
3. Support civil society efforts to create an institutional environment that enables effective conservation action.
4. Establish a small grants fund to build capacity among institutions and individuals working on conservation in the Cape Floristic Region.

In addition to the identification of the strategic directions outlined above, each strategic direction has further refined investment guidance provided through investment priorities, which are more specific and concrete. The investment priorities provide more specific targets for CEPF funding in the region and are used to inform grantmaking decisions. They are included as part of the full investment priority table in the ecosystem profile and on the CEPF Web site (www.cepf.net).

The geographic investment focus has been on the “mega-reserve” corridors and lowland areas where biodiversity is most endangered. Mega-reserves include the planning domains of the Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor, the Gouritz Initiative and the Baviaanskloof in the Eastern Cape. Lowland focus areas include the southwest lowlands centered on Cape Town, northwest lowlands, Garden Route and southeast lowlands (see map following the overview). Investment has been focused according to the four CEPF strategic directions as well as across all geographic priorities.
Recognizing the need to invest in all priority areas, special attention has been given to project development in areas with capacity constraints.

To date, CEPF has awarded 39 grants valued at almost $4.8 million (see Chart 1 included at the end of the overview). Chart 2 demonstrates the geographic distribution of approved grants in each of the geographic focus areas mentioned above. These grants range in size from $1,967 to $898,744, with the average grant size being $123,000 (see list of grants). The full status of the portfolio to date and the timeline of grants awarded are illustrated in Charts 3 and 4.

Investment has focused on Strategic Directions 1, 3, and 4 and the portfolio has seen significant activity in the well-capacitated southwest lowlands region. Future project development will focus on Strategic Direction 2, especially in areas that have not received significant funding to date.

The special Capacity Building Program established under Strategic Direction 4 has supported candidates from throughout the hotspot to attend long or short courses that improve their eligibility and capacity to assume management positions in conservation agencies, or to be placed as interns in conservation agencies or other appropriate organizations. Candidates are selected from throughout the region and where possible are linked to the implementation of ongoing CEPF projects.

Coordinating CEPF Grantmaking on the Ground

The Cape Coordination Unit (CCU) coordinates the implementation of the CEPF portfolio. CCU origins stem from a 2001 MOU signed by the Ministry of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, the Ministry of Water Affairs and Forestry, and the Eastern Cape and Western Cape provincial governments that created the Cape Coordinating Committee (CCC) and the Cape Implementation Committee (CIC) to provide coordination and collaboration among government and agencies implementing the C.A.P.E. strategy. In order to realize the coordination and collaboration envisioned in this MOU, and in particular to ensure strategic, cost-effective and efficient collaboration as well as neutral brokering between the numerous agencies involved in implementation, the Cape Coordination Unit was created. Initially funded by WWF-US, the unit has continued with support from CEPF, GEF and other donors. The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) is currently the managing agency of the CCU. This model of central coordination of multi-donor investments to benefit an overarching strategy allows for critical donor synergy within a region and is a valuable model to evaluate for replication potential. The integration and implementation of CEPF within C.A.P.E. is a tangible example of how CEPF grantmaking can effectively collaborate with CEPF donor partners at a regional level.

The CCU supports both the CCC and the CIC, providing technical and administrative support as well as regular reports at meetings. The unit is responsible for coordination of C.A.P.E., including management of all funding for the strategy. It also coordinates CEPF investment in the region as part of a strategic decision by CEPF to support the unit and ensure synergies with C.A.P.E. The unit plays a vital role in responding to both needs and opportunities within the conservation community.
Portfolio Investment Highlights by Strategic Direction

Strategic Direction 1: Support civil society involvement in the establishment of protected areas and management plans in Cape Floristic Region biodiversity corridors.

While CEPF investment via this strategic direction has attempted to address needs in each of the geographic priority areas, the main focus has been the realization of the mega-reserves: Cederberg, Gouritz and Baviaanskloof. Initial funding to the mega-reserves envisioned support for the groundwork that would allow these areas to become recognized mega-reserves complete with management and business plans, committed and knowledgeable staff, and a plan for the long-term financing. Although ambitious, largely due the immense size of the mega-reserves and patchwork of ownership, all three mega-reserves are now established and functioning. Significant gains have also been made in some of the lowland areas.

Highlights to date:

- Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor – a Project Management Unit is staffed, functioning effectively, and armed with the necessary tools to achieve conservation in this vast, diverse and wild area. Tools include a management plan, business plan, spatial and development plans, an ecotourism assessment, as well as numerous other reports that proved useful in conceiving the conservation strategy for this important region. The Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor, under the guidance of the capable Project Management Unit, is now in a position to spend new funding effectively (from GEF and other donors) to secure this area for the future.

- Baviaanskloof Mega-reserve – The Baviaanskloof Mega-Reserve Project is firmly established within the broader conservation community and amongst local stakeholders, with a functional steering committee and project management unit. Key studies have been conducted and plans prepared, setting the stage for this mega-reserve to deliver substantial gains for biodiversity conservation as well as the regional economy. The project has attracted significant funding from a variety of donors, in particular GEF.

- Gouritz Initiative – A strategic management plan and a business plan have been developed for this mega-reserve, a vast area occurring in both the Cape Floristic Region and the Succulent Karoo hotspots, now known as the Gouritz Initiative. With continued funding from CEPF, Cape Nature will move from the 18-month planning phase into a five-year implementation phase.

- St. Francis Conservancy Project – Through the development of a mission, vision and management plan, this project has provided stakeholders with a common direction to work toward managing the area for conservation. The first step in securing the biodiversity of the area has been taken through an in-principle agreement with a landowner to form a private contract reserve. Also, landowners are taking over the management of the conservancy (managing meetings, finances, governance), an indication that the conservancy will continue to function once the project team withdraws.

- Tokai’s Core Cape Flats Flora Conservation Site – This urban biodiversity project saw two biodiversity studies in the lower Tokai Plantation being commissioned and completed. The first study was for the restoration of 0.5ha of land adjacent to Orpen Road and the second was the “Biodiversity Assessment and Restoration Potential of Different Compartments in the Lower Tokai Plantation”. The project has been successfully leveraged in the restoration of the wetlands and a partnership with Working for Wetlands.
Strategic Direction 2: *Promote innovative private sector and community involvement in conservation landscapes surrounding Cape Floristic Region biodiversity corridors.* Because such a large portion of the cape (80 percent) is in private hands, this strategic direction is seen as critical to the success of conservation actions in the region. It focuses on identifying and piloting innovative means to engage the private sector and local communities in a variety of activities that will contribute to conservation.

**Highlights to date:**

- Through grants to the South Africa Protea Producers Association and the Flower Valley Conservation Trust, industry has investigated and documented sustainable harvesting methods for proteas and other Cape plants valued for the cut flower industry, and has disseminated awareness materials on this topic throughout the industry. This project served as an introduction to the Flower Valley/Agulhus Biosphere Initiative (ABI) training course, which will be offered in 2005. This model could well be adapted to other regions outside the Agulhas Plain.

- Stewardship has been recognized as a landscape conservation tool by the majority of initiatives in the region, via a pilot project undertaken by The Botanical Society of South Africa. This project has successfully changed the way Cape Nature and other initiatives approach conservation, by piloting stewardship within the region and in particular in the southwest lowlands and the three mega-reserves. WESSA has initiated the St. Francis Conservancy in the southeast lowlands.

- CEPF and other donors are supporting the Biodiversity and Wine Initiative, an innovative effort aimed at mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into the South African wine industry by promoting biodiversity best practices and the stewardship approach. The entire South African wine industry has already bought into the implementation of the Biodiversity Wine Initiative. This project is implemented via a grant to the South African Wine and Brandy Company.

- In recognition of the urgent need to involve South Africa’s urban poor in conservation of the valuable and threatened biodiversity that occurs within the urban landscape where they live, CEPF is supporting a challenging and innovative project implemented by Cape Flats Nature. This project aims to build partnerships between all tiers of government, nongovernmental and community-based organizations, and the private sector to conserve biodiversity at four pilot sites using a people-centered approach that benefits surrounding communities, particularly townships, in a way that is sustainable and replicable at other sites in the City of Cape Town’s biodiversity conservation network.

- The environmental and social benefits of the biodiversity-based business at Flower Valley, including the floral and paper business, is clearly depicted in the work being undertaken by the Flower Valley Conservation Trust (FVCT). Relationships have also evolved between FVCT and certain large corporations with international bases that have both a donor element and have undertaken to support commercial products through an ethical procurement policy. On the basis of its ongoing training program, FVCT secured funding from GEF through ABI and the South African Government’s Primary Agriculture Education and Training Seta (PAETA) for future skills development on a broader base and Adult Basic Education and Training in wild fynbos sector.

- Western Baviaanskloof Initiative – The mixture of cultural and natural heritage in the area has vast potential for biodiversity-friendly developments. The process undertaken has created a strong sense of unity and co-operation between the diverse peoples of the kloof, and resulted in a strong awareness of biodiversity value in the kloof. Many opportunities exist for cooperation between the mega-reserve project and local initiatives.
Valuable monitoring data on the status of threatened species and sites are being collected in a relatively inexpensive and sustainable manner through the use of volunteers in the C.A.P.E. Threatened Plants Program. The project has been highly effective in building capacity amongst volunteers and conservation extension staff to identify important biodiversity at the site level for conservation.

While the Baviaanskloof Conservancy project was only initiated in January 2005, an evident highlight so far is the active networking that is occurring between role-players, landowners and conservation authorities.

Strategic Direction 3: Support civil society efforts to create an institutional environment that enables effective conservation action.

This strategic direction aims at addressing several key elements that are essential for a coherent and efficient institutional framework, specifically the need for coordination of all stakeholders operating in the hotspot, improved access to biological information, better laws and policies, and increased capacity.

Highlights to date:

- The Cape Coordination Unit has effectively coordinated actions and funding for the hotspot, and has served efficiently as CEPF’s voice on the ground. The results include strategic fundraising that helps ensure sustainability of conservation initiatives, sensible funding decisions with regard to CEPF funds so grantmaking complements available funds and leverages new funding, and targeted grantmaking that contributes effectively to the Cape strategy.

- Via the Conservation Planning Unit of the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board (now Cape Nature), the lack of available biodiversity information has been addressed. The aim of this project was to make available the most recent and comprehensive biodiversity data to decisionmakers, planners, consultants and researchers for use in land-use management and decisionmaking in the hotspot. At the close of the project, the CPU has produced a wide variety of materials, held numerous training courses, produced an excellent Web site where users can access data and learn how to use the information, and has become the main source of biodiversity data for conservation and land-use decisions in the region. The CPU also provides services, where requested, for data analysis. This aspect of the CPU is popular and very likely to grow, as more government agencies learn of the CPU and seek assistance in meeting the legal requirements pertaining to conservation/land-use planning in their municipalities.

- CEPF is supporting a two-year project by the Botanical Society of South Africa to mainstream the use of systematic conservation plans into land-use planning and decisionmaking in the Western Cape Province, in order to curtail habitat loss in priority areas for biodiversity conservation. The project is innovative in that it will produce materials and methodologies that interpret the outputs of fine-scale systematic conservation plans, and then will test and apply these in pilot municipal areas. As part of the project, the organization has successfully developed plans and guidelines that are being used by local authorities in two pilot areas to inform their forward planning and land-use decisions. The project will be further supported by the C.A.P.E. GEF Conservation and Sustainable Development grant.
• Creating electronic access to information on the Red Data species and endemic plant families of the Cape Floristic Region – The publication accompanying the new South African Vegetation Map will include the map produced by this project and the lists of Red Data species for the vegetation units of the hotspot. This is intended by the authors of VegMap to encourage the rest of the country to do the same exercise. This is clearly a feather in the cap for this CEPF-funded project. The database developed has formed the basis for much of the work of the C.R.E.W. project and also the work of the Threatened Species Program of SANBI.

• Public interest and participation has exceed expectations in the “Effective conservation of amphibians and reptiles in the Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor” project which encourages stakeholder involvement by asking the public to submit photographs of the herpetofauna they encounter in the project area. Information received from the public has already led to the discovery of one and possibly two new lizard species.

Strategic Direction 4: Establish a small grants fund to build capacity among institutions and individuals working on conservation in the Cape Floristic Region. Investment in this strategic direction has been accomplished through a block grant to the Table Mountain Fund for the project, The Table Mountain Fund Capacity Building Program for the Cape Floristic Region. Initiated in September 2002, this project has already achieved much in its three years of operation.

Highlights to date:

• To date, eight individuals have received placements, nine individuals have enrolled on long courses and 92 have enrolled in short courses, totaling 109 individuals who have benefited from TMF-CBP interventions.

• Forty-nine women, of which six received placements, four enrolled in long courses, and 39 enrolled in short courses, have benefited from the project. Of the 60 men benefiting from the project, two received placements, five were enrolled in long courses and 53 were enrolled in short courses.

• Individuals from the Southwestern Lowlands received the largest portion of TMF-CBP interventions with five individuals receiving placements, six enrolled in long courses, and 55 enrolled in short courses. Individuals from the Southeastern Lowlands received two placements, two were enrolled in long courses and nine were enrolled in short courses. The Agulhas and Garden Route areas each had 12 individuals enrolled on short courses.

• To date, six of the nine individuals enrolled in long courses have completed their courses; while 87 of those enrolled in short courses have completed their courses. The eight placements are still running.

• Individuals benefiting from the project are mainly linked to the following institutions: SANPARKS with 28 individuals, Cape Nature with 15, SANBI with 14, the City of Cape Town with 10 and Cape Flats Nature with six individuals.

• To date, through TMF-CBP interventions, nine individuals now hold management positions in the CFR. One of the candidates who received funding for tertiary studies passed with distinction and has since been placed with Cape Nature, while another won a full scholarship to complete a Master’s Degree at Rhodes University.
Collaboration with the World Bank and GEF

In 1998, the GEF provided $12.3 million through the World Bank for the Cape Peninsula Biodiversity Conservation Project to strengthen management of the globally significant Cape Peninsula National Park, to part-capitalize the Table Mountain Fund, and to prepare the C.A.P.E. 2000 Strategy.

In 2003, the GEF provided an additional $11 million in funding through the UNDP ($2 million) and World Bank ($9 million) for the C.A.P.E. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development Project. The global objective of the project is that the natural environment of the Cape Floristic Region and adjacent marine environment will be effectively conserved, restored wherever appropriate and will deliver significant benefits to the people of the region in a way that is embraced by local communities, endorsed by government and recognized internationally. This project has two Project Development Objectives:

• Capable institutions cooperate to develop a foundation for mainstreaming biodiversity in the Cape Floristic Region into economic activities.
• Conservation of the Cape Floristic Region is enhanced through piloting and adapting site-based models for sustainable, effective management.

Project funds that have been made available by the GEF have complemented the CEPF investment, and have enabled project executants to implement a suite of projects through different implementation stages. The whole strategy is underpinned by a programmatic approach, drawing on the complementary niches and strengths of the agencies responsible, and having the effect of creating synergy among South African counterparts. In the four years since the C.A.P.E. 2000 strategy was launched, there is tangible evidence that the strategy is not only feasible but is being effectively implemented. It is clear though that there are huge challenges, and the real opportunity now is to build on the investments and further replicate effective approaches across the region.

Conclusion
As the CEPF Cape Floristic Region portfolio enters it fourth year, it is clear that CEPF funding has had a major impact in the region. Major successes are evident in the mega-reserves and in parts of the lowlands. CEPF has been strategic in supporting local groups’ projects to ready them for future funding coming online in the near future or to develop sustainable financing plans to ensure that CEPF’s investment will continue to reap benefits for conservation. CEPF projects have been selected to fulfill the CEPF investment strategy, which in turn is designed to complement the C.A.P.E. 2000 Strategy and Action Plan.

CEPF’s investments in some areas, such as Cederberg and Baviaanskloof, have prepared these areas to move from planning to implementation, and have also ensured that the stage has been set to use new funding efficiently and effectively. Pilot projects have also set a good foundation for replicating innovative and successful approaches, and these have done well in attracting new donors.

At the same time, there are areas that are not slated to benefit from GEF funding in the near future, and this is where CEPF has planned to invest, such as the Gouritz Initiative. Additionally, CEPF will spend remaining funds on Strategic Direction 2, as more emphasis needs to be directed toward the private sector. While the first four years of
CEPF investment have yielded excellent results, much remains to be done in the Cape Floristic Region to secure the conservation of this incredible region and particular attention needs to be paid to ensuring the sustainability of CEPF investment to date.

- March 2005

March 2005 Charts: Cape Floristic Region

Chart 1. Approved Grants by Strategic Direction

- $898,744 (Civil Society involved in PAs and management plans)
- $1,110,571 (Private sector involved in corridor landscapes)
- $1,365,310 (Institutional environment for conservation action)
- $1,424,851 (Small grants program)

Total: $4,799,476

Chart 2. Approved Grants by Corridor and Strategic Direction

- Bayiaanskloof: 1
- Cedarberg: 2
- Cross-cutting: 1
- Garden Route: 1
- Gouritz: 1
- SE Lowlands: 1
- SW Lowlands: 1

Chart 3. Portfolio Status by Strategic Direction

- # of Grants Approved
- # of Grants Pending
- # of Grants Rejected

- 1. Civil Society involved in PAs and management plans
- 2. Private sector involved in corridor landscapes
- 3. Institutional environment for conservation action
- 4. Small grants program

Chart 4. Combined Value of Grants Awarded

- $0 to $6,000,000
- Jan-02 to Jan-05
## Cape Floristic Portfolio Project Map Key

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<tr>
<th>Mapped #</th>
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<th>Project Title</th>
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<td>Friends of Die Oog</td>
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<td>Dr Shirley Pierce Cowling</td>
<td>Co-authorship of a book entitled: East of the Cape--Conserving Eden</td>
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* These projects are region wide and are not spatially represented on the project map.
Approved Grants
Cape Floristic Region
(Through March 2005)

Strategic Direction 1: Support civil society involvement in the establishment of protected areas and management plans in CFR biodiversity corridors

Die Oog Rehabilitation and Improvement Project
Contribute to the conservation of Die Oog, an important natural ecosystem in the Sand River Catchment Area that has been reserved as a bird sanctuary and public open space by the City of Cape Town. Activities include clearing alien plants and grasses from the fynbos area, planting indigenous plants; and providing an information board to promote public awareness and interest and to increase the involvement of local civil society in the protection of Die Oog as a natural
Funding: $3,500
Grant Term: 2/05-1/06
Grantee: Friends of Die Oog

Co-authorship of a book entitled: East of the Cape – Conserving Eden
Co-author a visually-driven book that aims to increase awareness and appreciation of the value and uniqueness of the biodiversity of an area covering the eastern part of the Cape Floristic Region, part of the Little Karoo subregion of the Succulent Karoo, and most of the domain of the Subtropical Thicket Ecosystem Planning Project (STEP) which forms the south-western part of the Maputoland Pondoland Albany region. The book will expose readers to land uses that promote sustainability of ecosystems and socio-economic systems, will discuss the conservation of biodiversity as well as the bioregional approach to conservation planning, and will provide detailed reader-friendly information on the natural history of selected species and ecosystems in area of focus.
Funding: $3,300
Grant Term: 1/05-12/05
Grantee: Dr Shirley Pierce Cowling

Van der Kempskloof/Parsonsvlei Management Plan
Develop a management plan for the sustainable use of the Van der Kempskloof/ Parsonsvlei area of the Eastern Cape Province in South Africa that will inform the development of a community conservation project at Bethelsdorp in the Nelson Mandela Metropole. Funding for the development phase of the community conservation project, which will include a plan and implementation strategy, has already been secured from The Table Mountain Fund.
Funding: $10,000
Grant Term: 8/04-1/05
Grantee: Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa: Eastern Province Region

Effective Conservation Of Amphibians And Reptiles in the Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor
Collate, analyze, interpret and disseminate data on the amphibians and reptiles of the proposed Cederberg Mega-reserve and western corridor in order to provide strategic input into design and management plans for the reserve, as well as build capacity within civil society in the region to enhance visitor experience.
Funding: $69,435
Grant Term: 1/04-12/06
Grantee: University of Stellenbosch
Blaauwberg Conservation Area
Promote civil society involvement in the management, development and conservation of the Blaauwberg Conservation Area, a key area of biodiversity importance in the vicinity of Cape Town.
Funding: $182,536
Grant Term: 11/03-1/05
Grantee: Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa: Western Cape Region

Botanical Assessment and Hotspot Identification for the Slanghoek Valley, Western Cape Province, South
Conduct a botanical survey and GIS-based mapping, and produce a regional conservation plan of private landholdings in the Slanghoek Valley in the Upper Breede Valley in Western Cape, South Africa. Information will be collected on a farm-by-farm basis to determine which areas are suitable for wine expansion and which are identified as irreplaceable and should be formally conserved.
Funding: $7,844
Grant Term: 10/03-2/05
Grantee: Rawsonville Wine & Tourism
*The original grant term has been increased by one year and two months.

The Cederberg Mega-Reserve Project Management Unit: Setting the Stage for Conservation in the Cederberg Mega-Reserve, South Africa
Establish the Cederberg Mega-Reserve Project Management Unit to further collaboration and partnerships with stakeholders, increase awareness of the proposed Cederberg Mega-reserve, coordinate strategic input into the development of the mega-reserve and ensure effective implementation of the Cederberg Mega-Reserve plans by Western Cape Nature Conservation Board and the Cederberg Mega-Reserve Steering Committee. Develop a strategic management and business plan for the Cederberg Mega-Reserve biodiversity corridor.
Funding: $129,179
Grant Term: 8/03-7/04
Grantee: Western Cape Nature Conservation Board

The St. Francis Conservancy Project
Establish and develop a pilot private conservancy in the St. Francis area of the south-eastern lowlands of the Eastern Cape Province, South Africa
Funding: $99,300
Grant Term: 8/03-7/05
Grantee: Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa: Eastern Province

Market Research Support to the Africa Environmental News Service
Support the Africa Environmental News Service by advising on planning of market research and development of marketing research tools, conducting the market research exercise and assisting with the development of a business plan.
Funding: $3,333
Grant Term: 5/03-10/04
Grantee: Equals Three Communications
*This is a multiregional project covering three hotspots; the total grant amount is $10,000.
The original grant term has been increased by one year and one month.

Taking C.A.P.E. to a Finer Scale: Catalyzing Conservation Action in the Cederberg Conservation Corridor and the “Cederberg Mega-Reserve Area” in the Cape Floristic Region
Conduct a stakeholder consultation workshop to develop a 3-year action plan for biodiversity conservation in the Cederberg mega-reserve, South Africa.
Funding: $3,842
Grant Term: 4/03-5/03
Grantee: Conservation International
Development of a Strategic Management and Business Plan to Ratify the Objectives of the Gouritz Megapark Conservation Corridor

Deliver an agreed upon strategic management and business plan for the Gouritz Megapark conservation corridor that will enable all the major stakeholders active within the region and all the potential partners of the project, local and national political entities, government institutions, parastatal bodies, funding institutions and civil society to support this project throughout its development and implementation phases.

Funding: $140,247
Grant Term: 4/03-8/04
Grantee: Western Cape Nature Conservation Board

*The original grant term has been increased by four months.

Conservation Biology of the Black Harrier in South Africa

Investigate the breeding biology and resource requirements of the black harrier, with a view to improving management strategies to meet its conservation needs. Changes in the distribution of breeding pairs of harriers could be an indicator of habitat degradation. The project will involve landowners and include post-graduate students.

Funding: $49,220
Grant Term: 1/03-12/05
Grantee: Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town

Promoting Public Participation in Caring for Tokai's Core Cape Flats Flora Conservation Site

Develop a management plan for a site that was formerly a pine plantation managed by the Department of Forestry. The site was destroyed by fire in 1998 but endemic plants persist and there is potential for restoration. Develop partnerships with the neighboring urban community, especially youth; rehabilitate the area to a natural ecosystem; and conduct public awareness activities.

Funding: $10,000
Grant Term: 1/03-6/05
Grantee: Friends of Tokai Forest

*The original grant term has been increased by six months.

Baviaanskloof Mega-Reserve Project: Mega-Reserve Vision and 5-Year Development and Management Plan

Develop and gain stakeholder acceptance for the Baviaanskloof Mega-Reserve Vision and a 5-Year Development Plan through the establishment and operations of the Project Management Unit (PMU). The Wilderness Foundation and the PMU will bring much needed capacity to the process in developing the vision and development plan. After this initial period, the PMU will commence implementation of the development plan as part of the Baviaanskloof Mega-Reserve Project.

Funding: $301,421
Grant Term: 11/02-8/04
Grantee: Wilderness Foundation

Mainstreaming Biodiversity on the Cape Flats: Project Design Phase

Undertake the initial design phase for the Mainstreaming Biodiversity on the Cape Flats project, which will focus on conservation of the unique biodiversity of the Cape Flats in a people-centered way that benefits the surrounding communities through best practice in sustainable management and coordinated stakeholder involvement.

Funding: $4,000
Grant Term: 10/02-1/03
Grantee: National Botanical Institute
Facilitating Implementation in the Priority Mega-Reserves and Lowland Corridors in the CFR
Coordinate and facilitate the development of implementation strategies for the mega-reserves, develop a strategy for engaging the private sector in developing best practices to support the lowland corridor and investigate a mechanism to secure priority lands in the Cape Floristic Region.
Funding: $348,153
Grant Term: 7/02-6/04
Grantee: Conservation International
The original funding amount has been increased by $16,634.

Strategic Direction 2: Promote innovative private sector and community involvement in conservation in landscapes surrounding CFR biodiversity corridors

Development of a Business Plan for a Donkey Trekking Route in the Northern Cederberg
Conduct a feasibility study and develop a business plan for a donkey trekking route between the Pakhuis Pass and Heuningvlei, within the Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor. This ecotourism initiative will generate employment for local communities and provide an incentive to protect the biodiversity of the area.
Funding: $9,515
Grant Term: 11/04-6/05
Grantee: The Wupperthal Conservancy in partnership with the Pakhuis Conservancy

Western Baviaanskloof Initiative Community Planning Process
Provide the Western Baviaanskloof Community with opportunities to come together to develop a broad community response to the Baviaanskloof Megareserve Project and to facilitate a constructive engagement with the Baviaanskloof Megareserve Project Management Unit.
Funding: $3,500
Grant Term: 11/04-5/05
Grantee: Western Baviaanskloof Initiative

The Biodiversity & Wine Initiative
Minimize further loss of threatened natural habitat in the Cape Floristic Region, and contribute to sustainable wine-producing practices through the adoption of biodiversity guidelines by the South African wine industry.
Funding: $100,000
Grant Term: 10/04-9/06
Grantee: The South African Wine & Brandy Company

Turning Duineveld Eco-Threat Into Profitable Employment: Phase 1 - Development of a Business Plan
Address threats to biodiversity by exploring means to remove alien species and increase employment opportunities in the Cape Floristic Region through a firewood-cutting scheme. Focus efforts in this first phase by preparing a business plan and action plan for the rural coastal area from Gouritsmond to Jongensfontein in the southern region.
Funding: $1,967
Grant Term: 7/04-9/04
Grantee: Duineveld Coastal Association

Mainstreaming Biodiversity on the Cape Flats: Building Good Practice in Sustainable Management
Achieve good practice in sustainable management of sites in the City of Cape Town. It will first achieve this at four pilot sites - the Edith Stephens Wetland Park, Harmony Flats Nature Reserve, Macassar Dunes and Wolfgat Nature Reserve - selected for their diversity of vegetation type as well as their location in the midst of poor black townships. Lessons learned at these pilot sites will be shared broadly, and the project seeks to develop and initiate the implementation of a strategy to roll out good practice to the rest of the City's biodiversity network that ensures connectivity between sites and links them within catchments and along coastlines.
Funding: $375,000
Grant Term: 10/03-6/07
Grantee: National Botanical Institute
Promoting and Marketing Flower Valley Conservation Trust - Biodiversity-Based Small Business
Promote a sustainable and best practice approach to harvesting indigenous flowers for local and international markets as an economically viable and competitive alternative to intensive agriculture. The Flower Valley Conservation Trust, an alliance of an historically disadvantaged local community and the private sector, will also work to empower previously disadvantaged people through adopting a partnership approach to business co-management. Francois Odendaal Productions will create promotional and marketing awareness materials as part of the project.
Funding: $10,000
Grant Term: 4/03-3/04
Grantee: Flower Valley Conservation Trust

Sustainable Utilization: A Tool for Managers and Workers in the Cape Floristic Region
Promote innovative private sector and community involvement in landscapes in the Cape Floristic Region via an easy to understand handbook on sustainable harvesting of fynbos plants, and a series of workshops designed to raise awareness about sustainable harvesting practices among target audiences in the region.
Funding: $16,500
Grant Term: 4/03-12/04
Grantee: South African Protea Producers and Exporters Association

C.A.P.E. Threatened Plants Program
Promote conservation awareness and engender stewardship of threatened plant species through the involvement of civil society in data collection, information sharing and the management of key conservation sites identified by the C.A.P.E. Lowlands Project. Use the information collected on distribution and population to guide conservation actions. Build capacity among at least six civil society groups to work with decisionmakers, landowners and local government to ensure the continued survival of threatened species within their regions.
Funding: $312,359
Grant Term: 3/03-2/06
Grantee: National Botanical Institute

Building a Global Constituency for Biodiversity Conservation
Implement a series of targeted public awareness and education campaigns in nine hotspots in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Campaign leaders participate in an intensive training course at the UK's Kent University or Mexico's Guadalajara University, prepare detailed plans to implement campaigns, link with a local organization in their region and commit to a minimum two years with that organization.
Funding: $306,747
Grant Term: 12/02-6/06
Grantee: Rare ($209,850.76) and Conservation International ($96,896.15)

*This is a multiregional project covering nine hotspots; the total grant amount is $1,993,854.98 (Rare $1,364,030 and Conservation International $629,825).
The original total funding to Rare has been reduced by $205,000 and to CI, increased by $205,000.
Partnerships, Cooperative Management and Incentives to Secure Biodiversity Conservation in Priority Areas in the Cape Floristic Region

Use cooperative management models and incentive schemes to promote private conservation initiative and empower civil society and develop an Incentives Action Team and a cooperative management and incentives database.

Funding: $251,963
Grant Term: 7/02-9/04
Grantee: Botanical Society of South Africa
The original grant term has been increased by three months.

Strategic Direction 3: Support civil society efforts to create an institutional environment that enables effective conservation action

Ensuring an Effective Role for the Southern Cape Herbarium and Garden Route Botanical Garden in Conservation in the Southern Cape, South Africa

Develop a long-term business plan for the Southern Cape Herbarium and Botanical Garden, ensuring that the center is sustainable, appropriately resourced and relevant to users and able to provide services, support, information and data, as well as taxonomic expertise for conservation and biodiversity initiatives and projects in the Southern Cape.

Funding: $18,334
Grant Term: 3/04-12/04
Grantee: Garden Route Botanical Garden Trust
The original grant term has been increased by four months.

Putting Biodiversity Plans to Work

Mainstream the use of systematic conservation plans in the land-use planning and decision-making system in the Western Cape Province to curtail habitat loss in priority areas for biodiversity conservation. Develop suitable materials and methodologies that interpret the outputs of fine-scale systematic conservation plans and test and apply these in pilot municipal areas. The project aims to lay the basis for the uptake of systematic conservation planning outputs in land-use planning and decisionmaking throughout the Western Cape.

Funding: $206,342
Grant Term: 1/04-12/05
Grantee: Botanical Society of South Africa

Investing in Technology to Build Communication and Financial Management Capacity for Civil Society Biodiversity Conservation NGOs in African Hotspots

Upgrade the Internet and video-conferencing facilities at the Kirstenbosch Research Centre (KRC), National Botanical Institute. Through this strategic investment, the KRC will improve its financial management ability in the Cape Floristic Region and the Succulent Karoo hotspots and catalyze a larger Internet technology development strategy to develop the KRC into a Center for Biodiversity Conservation that can serve as a communication hub for nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) working on biodiversity conservation issues in African hotspots with a particular focus on the Southern African hotspots in the initial phase.

Funding: $60,214
Grant Term: 10/03-10/04
Grantee: National Botanical Institute ($27,020.00) and Conservation International ($33,194.00)
This is a multiregional project covering two hotspots; the total grant amount is $120,428 (National Botanical Institute $54,040 and Conservation International $66,388).
Creating Electronic Access to Information on the Red Data List Species and Endemic Plant Families of the Cape Floristic Region

Produce a complete geo-referenced electronic database of all relevant plant collections in the Bolus, Compton and National herbariums, as well as GIS maps that indicate the number of rare and threatened species per cadastral unit for placing in the C.A.P.E. Conservation Planning Unit's Web site. This can be used for conservation planning and management in the three regions covered: Northern Cape, Western Cape and Eastern Cape.

Funding: $28,928
Grant Term: 4/03-3/04
Grantee: National Botanical Institute

The original grant term has been increased by three months.

First African Botanic Gardens Congress

Support participation of African delegates from the Cape Floristic Region, Guinean Forests of West Africa and Madagascar hotspots at the first African Botanic Gardens Conference in November 2002 in Durban, South Africa.

Funding: $2,250
Grant Term: 11/02-3/03
Grantee: Durban Botanic Gardens

This is a multiregional project covering three hotspots; the total grant amount is $11,250.

Wilderness Concepts and Practice Training Courses for Western & Eastern Cape

Expand Wilderness Concepts and Practice Training courses to the Western Cape in 2002 and the Eastern Cape in 2003. These courses are held for wilderness area managers and supervisors, wilderness users, conservation-orientated organizations and interested person in wilderness conservation practice to raise awareness of the importance of wilderness areas, their special uses and necessary management.

Funding: $8,550
Grant Term: 9/02-8/03
Grantee: Wilderness Action Group

Highlighting the Hotspots: Curating, Using and Sharing the C.A.P.E. Findings and Other Biodiversity Data in Support of Bioregional Planning and Land-Use Decisionmaking

Build on the foundation of a data resource center to ensure easy accessibility of biodiversity data and tools fundamental for prevention of ongoing encroachment into conservation-worthy areas and to facilitate land use decision-making. Provide data through a Web portal with online, e-mail help facilities and CD-ROMs and develop a business plan for sustainability of the C.A.P.E. Coordination Unit.

Funding: $203,070
Grant Term: 7/02-9/04
Grantee: Western Cape Nature Conservation Board

The original grant term has been increased by three months.

C.A.P.E. Coordination Unit

Ensure maximum complementary effort, technical support, effectiveness and efficiency of CEPF implementation among partner organizations.

Funding: $582,883
Grant Term: 5/02-4/07
Grantee: National Botanical Institute

Strategic Direction 4: Establish a small grants fund to build capacity among institutions and individuals working on conservation in the CFR
The Table Mountain Fund Capacity Building Program for the Cape Floristic Region

Establish an efficient and effective program to enable previously disadvantaged persons, such as women and particularly black South Africans, to become conservation project managers and leaders. This small grants program will include academic bursaries and two-year placements in the workplace.

Funding: $898,744
Grant Term: 9/02-12/06
Grantee: WWF-South Africa
Conservation Highlights

E-News

• Marketing Social Change – November 2004
• Building Bridges with CREW – October 2004
• Small Grants – Big Community Ripples – October 2004
• Cape Nature Conservation Launches Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor – August 2004
• C.A.P.E. Partner’s Conference – July 2004
• The Table Mountain Fund: Granting Better Futures – July 2004
• Connecting Conservationists in Africa – January 2004
• Conservation Stewardship in South Africa: Landowners to Lead the Way – December 2003
• Students Get Off to Strong Start for Conservation Education – August 2003
• First Wilderness Management Courses Held in Cape – July 2003
• Local Coordination Key to CEPF Expansion – December 2002
• Table Mountain Fund Awards First Grants to create Conservation Role Models – December 2002
• CEPF Expands to Nine Hotspots – March 2002

Other Highlights

• Brochure: C.A.P.E in action
• Speech: Ministry for Environmental Affairs and Tourism – CAPE Conference: $11.3 Million for Biodiversity and Conservation
• C.A.P.E. Partners’ Conference Announcement
• Press Release: Major Conservation Grant and Biodiversity Conference Marks world Environment Week
• World Bank Announcement: South Africa is Awarded US$11.3 Million from Global Environment Facility for the C.A.P.E. Programme
• News Article: Cape floral kingdom receives $11.3m grant
• News Article: Law now protects SA’s biodiversity
• Press Release: The Cape Floristic Region Becomes South Africa’s Sixth World Heritage Site
• News Article: Cape Floral Region wins the status of World Heritage Site
• C.A.P.E e-news
• Management Plan: Gouritz Initiative Strategic Management and Business Plan
• Circus: Newsletter of the Black Harrier Project
• The St. Francis Conservancy Newsletter
• Conservation Stewardship Brochure
• Web Site: Conservation Planning Unit
• News Article: World Bank aids conservation Initiative
• News Article: room for the vine and fynbos to live side by side
• News Article: Working for a greener future for all
Marketing Social Change

In Focus, November 2004

Zhang Zhe is a 27-year-old environmental engineer by training. She is accomplished and intelligent. But she has an alter ego—a large golden pheasant (a friend in a big bird costume, actually) that accompanies her as she spreads her conservation messages to hundreds of school children in China’s Sichuan Province every month.

And she’s not the only one.

With funding from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), Zhang Zhe is one of 13 individuals being trained in social marketing and the art of convincing local communities and governments that conservation is key.

The project brings promising individuals and local groups together with the support of Rare and Conservation International’s global communications team to build a global constituency for biodiversity conservation through Rare’s replicable Pride program.

It’s an entertaining, creative approach to the complex issue of biodiversity conservation, while building and bettering lives of local people.

“In the village that I am working in, most families have small home-based businesses, and tourism-related businesses,” explained Zhang Zhe about one of the villages around Baishuihe National Nature Reserve where she is working in the Mountains of Southwest China biodiversity hotspot.

“It’s mostly families, and though they’re not lacking food or sanitation, they are still very concerned about generating incomes for the family. So we are trying to find a way, working with government and nongovernmental organizations, to combine economic development and conservation in this area.”

Zhang Zhe’s work is part of a project implemented by the Jane Goodall Institute Roots and Shoots China office, which is one of the organizations participating in the program.

With a marketing zeal not too unlike that which a marketeer for Coke or Pepsi would approach their audiences, the new Pride campaign leaders are generating huge interest and participation in their efforts to promote conservation of
important ecosystems and the globally threatened species they shelter.

**Enabling Expansion**

A CEPF grant awarded last year is supporting an expansion of the Pride program with the 13 new campaigns in the Atlantic Forest, Cape Floristic Region, Chocó-Darién-Western Ecuador, Guinean Forests of West Africa, Mesoamerica, Mountains of Southwest China, the Philippines, Succulent Karoo and Sundaland hotspots.

In addition to the CEPF-supported campaigns and others already underway, Rare has also launched 12 new campaigns in additional areas with support from others such as the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and The Nature Conservancy.

Each campaign aims to save a Critically Endangered species, solidify or create new protected areas, or conserve healthy biodiversity conservation corridors.

Rare’s experience in conservation education stems from its work in the 1980s developing a very structured social marketing tool, known then as the Promoting Protection Through Pride program. The recipe is simple and effective: turn a charismatic flagship species into a symbol of local pride, as a lever for improving public understanding of biodiversity’s value and the need to take action to preserve it.

Both grassroots and mass-marketing techniques are used to create broad-based support—on a local or national level—for ecosystem protection.

Promising individuals are chosen to become campaign leaders, linked with a local organization and supported throughout the process, which officially begins with a 10-week training course at the University of Kent at Canterbury in the United Kingdom or the University of Guadalajara in Mexico. (See related story: Students Get Off to Strong Start for Conservation Education.)

For each campaign, the objectives, flagship species, and target audience are selected to address a specific, realistic, and measurable threat identified together with stakeholders. Threats targeted by the CEPF-supported campaigns range from illegal logging and mining to unsustainable wildlife trade to an advancing agricultural frontier.

**In the Field**

For people like 31-year-old South African Jakob Hanekom, the project is crucial. Using the Clanwilliam cedar tree as his flagship species, and promoting the campaign slogan of “Be a Friend to the Cederberg!” he aims to conserve the plants and animals of the Cederberg Wilderness Area where the Cape Floristic Region and Succulent Karoo hotspots converge in South Africa.

As part of his campaign, this married father of two is doing a weekly 10-minute live radio spot talking about conservation challenges, and spreading key campaign messages. He has...
also prepared a package of materials to use during his visits to local schools, including rulers with messages that serve as “prompts” to remind children (and their families) even months later about the conservation messages they heard in school.

“It’s really rewarding to work in my home town and bring information about nature and ecosystems to the people here,” Hanekom said. “For many it’s the first time ever they’ve been exposed to this type of program.”

Hanekom, who is linked with Cape Nature, has also designed and printed an education booklet and fact sheet to spread information on conservation and development issues important to the wilderness area; recorded and sung a school song to more than 4,700 children; and developed a bilingual puppet show to use during his school visits.

Through the project’s online club, campaign managers can also share information with their fellow managers in other hotspots, who are using similar social marketing techniques but specially adapted to the local situation.

In the Chocó-Darián-Western Ecuador Hotspot, Luis Arroyo Carvache is leading a campaign to preserve critical forests of San Lorenzo del Pailon in northwestern Ecuador. The campaign aims to help stop conversion of the forests and mangroves to agricultural land, particularly palm oil plantations, in the Chocá-Manabi conservation corridor.

Among his activities, Carvache has produced a costume of the red-lored parrot (*Amazona autumnalis*)—his campaign’s flagship species—and a variety of materials for his work in 22 schools. He is also hosting a local radio show, producing a variety of radio spots to help people understand the benefits they receive from the forests.

**Replicating Success the Pride Way**

For the Pride program, success breeding success is part of the strategy.

For example, the campaign leaders conduct pre- and post-campaign surveys of 1-3 percent of their target population to learn about relevant knowledge, attitudes, and practices. The survey data is used to develop objectives, design messages, and ultimately to measure the change achieved during the campaign.

Rare has also developed a “Learning Framework for Pride,” a set of 66 different data points that it is collecting throughout all the current campaigns. At the end, it will use this data to develop a predictive model of success for a campaign to determine, with statistically valid data, “what characteristics are most important for success,” said Megan Hill, senior director for Pride at Rare’s U.S. headquarters.

“All of that said, one of the most important points I use to define success is seeing Pride campaigns implemented long after Rare’s direct involvement is over,” Hill said. “It is a replicable model, and our ultimate goal is to train people to keep running outreach campaigns long into the future.”
It's this forward thinking that often proves pivotal to conservation success, and the new campaign leaders are already demonstrating their capacity as catalysts.

In the Philippines, the Katala Foundation’s campaign led by Indira Lacerna-Widmann recently convinced the Municipality of Puerto Princesa to protect 60 hectares of crucial feeding, nesting and roosting ground for the Critically Endangered Philippine cockatoo (*Cacatua haematuropygia*).

The Philippine cockatoo, the flagship species for Lacerna-Widmann’s campaign, was once considered common but now numbers no more than 4,000. The new protected area on the island of Dumaran off the coast of Palawan is also important for local communities.

“The protected area will protect and ensure the water supply not only for this community but also for other barangays (villages) dependent on this sub-watershed,” Lacerna-Widdman said.

**Planning for the Future**

Forward thinking is also pivotal in fast-developing economies like China.

In addition to her school and farm work, Zhang Zhe is completing a documentary about Baishuihe National Nature Reserve.

After a pre-campaign survey she conducted showed that 70 percent of her target audience gets its information from TV, she set out to produce this film to reach people living near the Reserve, as well as tourists. She hopes to have it broadcast on local and national TV stations, and to produce DVDs for use in schools.

“With the economic development and improving environmental awareness, China’s environmental protection work will be so different 10 years later from today,” Zhang Zhe said. “This film may well be used as study material by that time.”

Indeed time is of the essence and Rare appears to be ready to launch more programs keeping in step with the growing global economy.

“Pride is really ramping up,” said Brett Jenks, Rare’s president and CEO. “In the first 15 years of the Pride program, Rare supported 30 campaigns worldwide. In 2004 alone, we have 29 operating campaigns, and 2005 will see a total of 49. So CEPF’s return on investment will be greater than the sum of each campaign.”
Building Bridges With CREW

In South Africa, cultural divides are far and wide, and many times conservation initiatives—and globally threatened species—can get lost in the gap.

This is where the Cape Threatened Plants Program is stepping in.

Using “local heroes,” it’s gaining inroads into communities where conservation is a completely new concept.

Known locally as Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers (CREW), it’s a monitoring program run under the National Biodiversity Institute (NBI) Threatened Species Program that is reaching out to farmers and others in the Cape Floristic Region Hotspot to both raise awareness and collect much-needed data on rare and endangered plants in the hotspot.

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund is supporting the project through 2006. This collaborative project between NBI, Western Cape Nature Conservation Board and the Botanical Society is developing the capacity of civil society groups to evaluate and conserve threatened plants.

“Most of the areas we work in don’t have conservation-minded communities,” said Domitilla Raimondo, CREW program manager. “A lot of time we’re facing traditional, conservative communities with wide cultural and language divides.”

But these landowners, many of whom are wheat and wine farmers, are key to conserving the plant species of the region. Key threats to plant biodiversity include land transformation such as agricultural cultivation and urban spread as well as over-collection of plant species for medicinal use or illegal trading.

“There are many farms that have species found only there,” Raimondo said. “On one farm, there is an irid—Moraea atropunctata—that has less than 250 individuals surviving.”

To overcome this challenge CREW is enlisting local heroes in seven different communities from six of the hotspot’s threatened lowland regions to help them befriend and work with local people.

“Our local champions speak the language, know the culture and are from the local community, so people trust them,” Raimondo said. “This way, we get straight to the key people within the community whom we need to engage to conserve these threatened plants.”

Besides collecting data and raising awareness in the relevant communities, each group is also responsible for conserving key sites for threatened plant conservation. The project already has three sites conserved as a result of the program, another three sites that are managed by the local custodians and four others in the pipeline.

Each group is responsible for monitoring and helping conserve the threatened plants in their regions. There are more than 400 threatened plants in the areas CREW works in and each group has on average around 60 species it is helping to conserve.
A number of public groups and communities have already become involved in this challenging project and the enthusiasm and interest generated so far are proving encouraging. The valuable insights gained from CREW will also help guide the country’s Cape Action for People and the Environment initiative in establishing further public-based monitoring projects across South Africa during the next 3 years.

Learn more about the CEPF strategy in this hotspot.
Small Grants - Big Community Ripples

In Focus, October 2004

by Elizabeth A. Foley

What can you do with $100?

For civil society groups receiving support from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund’s diverse small grants programs, this small sum could be the lever for saving one of the world’s most threatened primates, preserving threatened forest or enabling hundreds of people to invigorate their local economies or train for new occupations.

“You’d be amazed what you can achieve with $100,” said Frank Hawkins of the Madagascar Small Grants Project. “You can change people’s lives tremendously with that amount of money.”

In developing areas where incomes are low and where many local groups may not otherwise qualify for support from traditional donors, smaller sums are providing needed springboards to effective conservation outcomes and securing better futures for individuals and entire communities.

Now, exactly two years since CEPF launched its first small grants program to create conservation managers among previously disadvantaged persons in the Cape Floristic Region biodiversity hotspot, six small grants programs are helping to meet the partnership’s strategic objectives.

Directly managed by local partners, the six programs support more than 200 local organizations, communities and individuals in the Atlantic Forest, Cape Floristic Region, Madagascar and Philippines hotspots.

Like a pebble dropped in pond, the initial impact is small, but the ripple effect can be huge.

“It helps with networking—people are sharing their lessons so local groups get to know each other and learn from each other—ultimately it’s bringing more people into conservation,” said Tanya Conlu of the Emergency Action for Threatened Species and Their Habitats in the Philippines.
Investing in People

In essence, small grants and the way in which they are implemented can build better futures.

One of the best examples of this can be seen in the support provided by Instituto de Estudos Sócio-Ambientais do Sul da Bahia (IESB). The organization manages CEPF’s small grants program for institutional strengthening in the Central Conservation Corridor in the Atlantic Forest hotspot, while Associação Mico-Leão Dourado manages the program in the Serra do Mar Corridor.

The Institutional Strengthening Program is one of three CEPF small grants programs in this region, which together support approximately 150 civil society groups and manage 25 percent of the $8 million CEPF investment portfolio for the Brazilian part of the hotspot.

IESB is supporting some 31 local partners with grants ranging from $6,000 to $10,000. Its grants have helped provide everything from boots and hats to forest firefighters and beach vehicles for monitoring sea turtle eggs to technical assistance for farmers to set up sustainable cultivation cooperatives.

“These are small organizations and many are so institutionally weak that they don’t even know how to distribute the money we give them,” said Luis de Lima of IESB. To help, IESB has provided financial management courses for its grantees in both Bahia and Serra do Mar for the last two years.

For the group of volunteer firefighters of the Sociedade Civil dos Bombeiros Voluntários de Santa Teresa and their communities, IESB support has made a profound difference. “It was the first grant they’d ever applied for,” Paulo Vila Nova, an IESB grant manager, said of the group’s first application for funding. “They didn’t even have a phone. Now at least they have the minimum structure in place to function.”

Since receiving their first grant from IESB, the forest firefighters are equipped with proper equipment and have since applied for two more grants and received them. And they have expanded their education and conservation program to include reforesting 40 hillsides in their nearby communities, lecturing in local schools and working with surrounding communities on conservation issues.

Challenges: A Case Study in the Philippines

Enabling small groups and even individuals to make a difference is far from easy.

In the Philippines, where the Haribon Foundation manages the small grants program on emergency action for threatened species and their habitats, even attracting grant applications is no small task.

“We thought we’d simply announce grants, and the
proposals would just pour in,” Conlu said. “But the local NGOs need a lot of help in project development—in developing proposals, writing grant applications and in focusing their projects on species and habitat conservation and not just through reforestation.”

In fact, it has been more a case of the program seeking out potential grant recipients rather than those potential partners taking advantage of the funding opportunity.

The program provides small grants for research, field training, site implementation and institutional strengthening. While CEPF investments focus on Eastern Mindanao, Palawan and Sierra Madre, this program supports activities primarily in Cebu, Negros, Mindoro, Panay, Sibuyan and Tawi-tawi to help conserve the 30 percent of the Philippines’ unique species found outside the focal areas.

Since its start in 2002, the program’s grants have helped fill gaps in knowledge of the hotspot’s threatened species and their conservation needs, and further the professional development of Filipino conservation biologists.

To date, the program has made seven grants ranging from $7,000 to $18,000 for site-based action and six grants of about $5,000 for research. Applicants are required to provide some sort of sustainability mechanism and asked to seek out counterpart funding.

“The biggest realization is that there are just too few researchers in this country, and not enough people involved in conservation,” Conlu said.

“Most of the people we’re working with now come from social development organizations or projects like community programs involving poverty and health. So now we’re working to help them shift or widen their scope.”

One beneficiary is Ely Alcala, a 42-year-old veterinarian by training who is now spearheading an initiative with communities of the Calatong Watershed in the southwest of Negros to boost voluntary forest patrols and train local farmers to propagate threatened indigenous tree species in a move away from harvesting.

“We got a forest protection grant, and since then have been working to involve local communities to patrol on a wider scale and local governments to set up a watershed and wildlife presence,” Alcala said.

The level of response from the local people was unexpectedly good. “You just don’t see this in the Philippines—groups of people protecting the forest voluntarily,” Alcala said.

His work is part of a Silliman University Angelo King Center for Research and Environmental Management project to secure protection for the entire 6,000-hectare watershed as a reserve. Today, only 1,000 hectares of the watershed are protected since this area covers only the municipality of Cauayan.

Alcala is helping the region’s marginal farmers adapt to
reforestation cultivation. They’ve built a nursery and are growing seedlings of endemic species like the dipterocarp, half of which they intend to plant in the forest and the other half to sell.

“They’re seeing that the dipterocarp can sell for double the price of the exotics—so they are understanding the value of not cutting trees and of putting a halt to illegal logging,” he said.

“Essentially saving these forests is saving their water source. If the watershed dries up because the forest disappears, a lot of the surrounding towns and farmers dependent on it for their water, are in a lot of trouble.”

Reinvigorating Communities and Conservationists

Often funding is re-invigorating groups to ensure their own financial sustainability and bringing a better standard of living for people living in communities close to conservation areas.

“The funding provided to the organizations of the Atlantic Forest Central Corridor is like a breath of fresh air to most of the organizations,” the IESB’s Vila Nova said.

“Without sufficient funding and technical support they were losing their motivation to continue. The grants have helped build the self-esteem of people in these groups, and restored their confidence for building and seeking funding from other institutions.”

The Projecto ONÇA (Núcleo de Comunidades Agrícolas Associação de Moradores do Maribum, Santo Antônio e Rio Negro) in the city of Taperoa is one of the programs receiving funding. Vila Nova thinks it illustrates the power small grants can have.

Founded in 1988, it’s bringing local farmers together in an organic cooperative and working with them to market their goods. “It’s not just the local environment at stake, it’s bringing a higher income to these families,” Vila Nova said.

Madagascar Nodes – Levers for Social Change

The Madagascar Small Grants Program is the youngest of the CEPF-supported small grants program and is tailored specifically for Madagascar, where local civil society organizations are few.

It’s comprised of “nodes”—regional partner organizations that will build the technical and financial management of locally based groups and manage and award micro-grants for them to undertake conservation actions in high-priority sites.

“There’s a certain amount of risk so we’re fairly detailed in the kinds of grants we’ll provide, and these include funding for mapping distribution of species, population surveys and delimiting community reserves,” said Hawkins of Conservation International’s Center for Biodiversity Conservation in Madagascar, which manages the program.
“The overall idea is to generate a market for small-scale, low-budget biodiversity action, and thereby increase the revenue that local people get from biodiversity, as well as increasing our knowledge and capacity to manage biodiversity.”

The Madagascar project has two nodes under development, three in the process of negotiation and a couple of others possible. Its first node, Association Fanamby, will be functional within the month.

Working in Daraina in northeast Madagascar, Fanamby will develop agreements with local groups to monitor pressures on the forest, monitoring certain species populations, delimiting community protected areas and directing forest management transfer, all with an eye toward establishing the area as a legally protected zone.

“The aim for all priority conservation sites is to learn from what we’ve started in Daraina, and then work with potentially hundreds of people in each region,” Hawkins said.

The node agreements will be for around $20,000, of which about one-third will go to the node itself for training, equipment and general capacity building and the remainder of which will be distributed in sub-grants ranging from $100 to $5,000.

Small sums perhaps, but Hawkins believes even $100 will more than change people’s lives and help potentially reverse a seemingly fast train to extinction for the golden crowned sifaka, one of the most threatened primates in the world. It lives only in Daraina, between the rivers of Loky and Manambato, in a region that despite its incredible biological diversity, continues to be without official protection.

Daraina continues to undergo the negative effects of human pressure, the consequences of bush fires, illicit exploitation of wood, poaching and extraction of gold. This has motivated the minister of environment, water and forests to seek out official protected area status together with Association Fanamby under a new concept of a “conservation site” to manage the natural resources of the region and assure the integration of local communities in the process.

While still in its youth, this small grants initiative seems to be ushering in a new societal shift. “This is one of the very important benefits of biodiversity conservation,” Hawkins said. “You can use it as a lever to foster social cohesion, for change.”
Cape Nature Conservation Launches Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor

The Western Cape Nature Conservation Board in conjunction with Cape Action for People and the Environment (C.A.P.E.), recently launched the Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor (GCBC).

The new corridor will cross the Cape Floristic Region hotspot in South Africa and extend into the South African portion of the Succulent Karoo hotspot.

“This groundbreaking initiative developed from a conservation ethic that uniquely recognizes the lived in, worked in nature of an extended landscape," said Jaco Venter, project coordinator for the corridor initiative. The biodiversity corridor is a first for South Africa. It incorporates a variety of land uses, and places emphasis on both the natural and cultural resources of the Cederberg area.

C.A.P.E., which aims to promote social and economic development through conservation and wise use of the region’s extraordinary natural resources, recognizes that efforts to conserve life-supporting processes should include natural corridors that stretch across habitats and climatic regions. The hope is that this will ensure conservation of critical habitat types and support holistic conservation versus protection of individual species.

As a result of large-scale habitat transformation, there are only three opportunities to create these land linkages in the Cape Floristic Region, of which the GCBC is one.

According to Moshall Mouton from the Wuppertal community, the Greater Cederberg initiative is not merely a planning exercise but rather an integral part of helping the community develop its ecotourism business plan.

Tourism in the corridor is expected to bolster social and economic development of local communities. A few projects currently supported by GCBC include soon to be established ecotourism donkey cart treks by the Wuppertal Conservancy; surveys of the plant, reptiles and amphibians of the Tankwa Karoo; and an area-wide planning process for resource conservation in the Sandveld.

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund funded a planning process initiated for the GCBC by the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board last year. As a result of the planning phase’s success, the Global Environment Facility, a CEPF donor partner, will fund the implementation phase over the next 5 years. In excess of R 1.5 million (approximately $279,240) has been committed by foreign funds for various projects within the GCBC.

Related story: C.A.P.E. Partners’ Conference
More than 260 people gathered at the base of South Africa’s world-famous Table Mountain for the Cape Action for People and the Environment (C.A.P.E.) first partners’ conference in June.

Entitled “Innovating Conservation,” the conference brought together 20 partner organizations alongside government agencies and donors all helping to implement C.A.P.E. The participants reviewed progress, shared lessons learned and planned for the next five years of implementation in the Cape Floristic Region.

C.A.P.E. is a government program developed together with experts and stakeholders with funding support from the Global Environment Facility through the World Bank. Launched in May 2001, the program has three broad areas of focus:

- Conserving biodiversity in priority areas;
- Using resources sustainably; and
- Strengthening institutions and governance.

Its goal: "By the year 2020, the natural environment of the Cape Floral Kingdom will be effectively conserved, restored wherever appropriate, and will deliver significant benefits to the people of the region in a way that is embraced by local communities, endorsed by government and recognized internationally."

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a cornerstone funder, allocating $6 million over five years to support the most urgent priorities identified by C.A.P.E. CEPF investments support civil society-led efforts in the Cederberg, Gouritz and Baviaanskloof mega-reserves and in key lowland areas.

Inside the Conference

The conference, held June 1-3 at Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens in Cape Town, featured a keynote address by Marthinus van Schalkwyk, the minister of environmental affairs and tourism, who characterized the Cape region as a national and global treasure but also “an asset under siege.”
“The question that C.A.P.E. correctly asks, and around which this conference centers, is how best to build the biodiversity economy – especially when most of these natural riches lie on private and communal land,” van Schalkwyk told the participants.

“There is no chance of ever conserving biodiversity without the active support and understanding of the people who live on that land,” van Schalkwyk said. “It can never be a question of the people or the environment, conservation or the economy. What is needed is greater innovation to unlock the economic potential of conservation-friendly land use.”

Participants also learned of three new grants to support the overall program.

The first two, from the Global Environment Facility, will bring a further $11.32 million through UNDP and the World Bank to the next five-year implementation phase.

The funds will be used to strengthen conservation institutions and conservation education as well as to help establish the Baviaanskloof, Cederberg and Garden Route protected areas, two marine protected areas and two estuarine protected areas.

The third, from the UK-based Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation, will provide GBP1 million (approximately $1.83 million) to establish a Center for Biodiversity Conservation at Kirstenbosch.

The facility will bring the new South African National Biodiversity Institute—the legal successor to the National Botanical Institute under South Africa’s Biodiversity Act signed into law May 31—together with more than a dozen partner organizations.

Sessions on the conference’s first day highlighted challenges and initial progress reports from government agencies and civil society groups that act as implementing agencies for the program as well as from Trevor Sandwith, who heads the C.A.P.E. Coordination Unit and acts as overall coordinator of both C.A.P.E. and CEPF implementation in the biodiversity hotspot.

More than 30 speakers addressed the participants over the course of four workshops covering topics such as governance and institutions, protected areas and linkages in the landscape, and models for involving and benefiting people.

In addition to assessing progress in the overall program, the participants shared experiences and lessons learned.

“It was valuable as a coming together of all the partners and catching up with people from all the different projects who you don’t get to talk to on a day-to-day basis, and engage with projects that are somewhere on the road to implementation to see what the challenges are,” said Tanya Goldman, project manager for Cape Flats Nature.

Goldman leads a CEPF-supported project to achieve good practice in sustainable management of sites in the city of Pa...
Cape Town’s biodiversity network being established within the context of the city’s Integrated Metropolitan Environmental Policy and Biodiversity Strategy. The project is working with communities surrounding four pilot sites in the midst of poor townships on the Cape Flats.

She said she would have liked to see more in-depth discussion about challenges related to involving communities and generating economic development from conservation, but the level of discussion “was more a reflection of where projects are at the moment versus a process flaw.”

The final day wrapped up with remarks by review panellists and 8-10 person working group discussions to develop key recommendations for future action. The participants developed a set of 13 recommendations on topics ranging from funding sustainability to influencing land-use decisions to involving communities.

Facing the Challenges

Key to accomplishing C.A.P.E.’s goal will be making the conference’s buzzwords “mainstreaming biodiversity” a reality.

The people of the region are diverse but socioeconomic disparities are marked, as are disparities in skills and access to resources.

There are sizable pockets of poverty in both rural and urban areas. Many poorer rural communities are dependent upon wild resources, particularly marine resources and medicinal plants for subsistence purposes and income generation.

Approximately 5.2 million people live in the Cape Floristic Region, which spans the provinces of the Western Cape and Eastern Cape. Rural areas harbor the greatest biodiversity, while some 20-30 percent of the human population and many urban communities reside in or adjacent to biologically significant areas.

The unemployment rate in Cape Town is 16.9 percent. Many Cape Town residents have never had jobs and most have little or no applicable skills.

As C.A.P.E. moves from pilot to implementation, it will build on already established programs helping to implement C.A.P.E. with CEPF support, such as the Cape Flats Nature project, the Table Mountain Fund Capacity Building Program and others geared toward engaging and building the capacity of local citizens and communities.

“Professionals working in conservation are not representative of the broader South African community,” said Rodney February, manager of the Capacity Building Program and one of the conference’s workshop speakers.

The program provides funding to previously disadvantaged persons, particularly black and female South Africans, for academic bursaries and one-year placements in the workplace. It aims to change the face of conservation in the country, creating trained conservation role models who can
merge conservation with social development. (See related story – The Table Mountain Fund: Granting Better Futures)

Other programs working to bridge the conservation-local involvement and employment gap include the government program Working for Water and the Flower Valley Conservation Trust.

Ten years into a new democracy, South Africa’s political and social climate is geared toward fast-moving economic development. C.A.P.E.’s challenge will be to move as quickly as the soaring direct foreign investment in the region, where development is escalating in step with investments.

Approximately 80 percent of the land in the region is also privately held.

C.A.P.E. partners will need to “get smart” according to National Botanical Institute CEO Brian Huntley.

Speaking during one of the workshops, Huntley said that developers are already “trading on nature” and forming partnerships is crucial, particularly with the number of golfing estates and other intensive land uses rising.

But there is a unique opportunity to harness this momentum by working with the parties involved. One idea Huntley thinks worthy of following up came from a meeting with estate agents who suggested a levy be placed on all property sales.

There is also headway being made in the form of partnerships with farmers and other landowners as part of unique initiatives helping to implement C.A.P.E. with CEPF support.

In the Slanghoek Valley of the Western Cape, for example, some 327 farmers have formed the Rawsonville Wine and Tourism Cooperative to promote the sustainable use of their natural environment and contribute to the social development of the entire community.

As part of their project, the farmers have joined forces with the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board, the Department of Agriculture and a botanical specialist to craft a regional plan for the conservation of the locally endemic and highly irreplaceable plant species that are threatened by agricultural development.

The team has been working with 13 key landowners in the valley and five of these have been hooked up with a complementary CEPF-supported program implemented by the Botanical Society of South Africa. The project is developing both incentives and benefits for landowners to act as stewards of their biodiversity-rich land.

From Pilot to Implementation

C.A.P.E.’s pilot phase has provided an important learning period, one that has seen innovative project development and helped establish which types of projects can be sustainable in the long term.
The strong governmental commitment to linking conservation and sustainable development and the extremely broad network of civil society organizations in the region bodes well for the future success of C.A.P.E.

However, mainstreaming biodiversity through increased and sustained involvement of ordinary South Africans remains pivotal.

“Partnerships are popping up like mushrooms, but there are still few implementers willing to get their hands dirty and get things going on the ground,” said David Daitz, chairman of the C.A.P.E. Implementation Committee and one of the conference speakers.

By combining the energies, insights and resources of the government, civil society organizations and donors, C.A.P.E. continues to be a unique partnership approach with immense potential.

The conference proved to be an important extension of this approach, with partners assessing progress and sharing lessons and challenges together. The results: a renewed commitment to the overall strategy and joint action among all the partners as well as a consensus-based blueprint for future action.

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The Table Mountain Fund: Granting Better Futures

Two years into its Capacity Building Program, the Table Mountain Fund is seeing the emergence of an inspiring leadership base of black men and women conservation role models who are forging the way for a different type of conservation management in the Cape Floristic Region.

“There are so many candidates who are so good,” said Rodney February, the program’s new manager.

As an example, he mentions Lewin Walters, who recently completed her Bachelor of Technology in Nature Conservation with the program’s support.

Walters now manages Macassar Dunes, a nature reserve on the False Bay Coast, as part of a one-year work placement with the National Botanical Institute arranged and funded by the Capacity Building Program.

“The reserve itself is bordered by some of the poorest communities in the greater Cape Town metropole and is notoriously dangerous for people working on their own, let alone women,” February said. “But she is totally committed to urban conservation and the context into which the reserve falls.”

The Capacity Building Program is a small grants program that CEPF has helped create to implement the initiative’s strategic objectives in the Cape Floristic Region biodiversity hotspot.

CEPF investments in the hotspot focus on implementing the highest priorities for conservation identified by Cape Action for People and the Environment (C.A.P.E.), which aims to conserve the region’s biodiversity while delivering significant benefits to people.

With virtually no black South Africans and few women in conservation management positions in the hotspot, the success of the Capacity Building Program and others that aim to build civil society capacity are crucial to C.A.P.E.’s long-term success.

The Capacity Building Program is geared specifically toward building capacity among previously disadvantaged persons by providing academic bursaries and placements in the...
workplace.

Funds are also being granted to build technical capacity through on-the-job training of staff working in C.A.P.E implementation agencies, such as South African National Parks and Western Cape Nature Conservation Board as well as a variety of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

Some management trainees will work together with community-based organizations such as Khayelitsha Education and Resource Information Centre, Kouga Environmental and Tourism Association and the environmental management departments of metropolitan and small town local authorities.

Like Walters, Mzwandile Peter (see photo above) is also committed to his local community and to succeeding in the conservation job sector. He recently completed a one-year management certificate program at the University of Cape Town's business school with support from the Capacity Building Program.

Now employed as communication manager with Cape Flats Nature at Edith Stephens Wetland Park in eastern Cape Town, he talks about how the park's creation from abandoned and gang-ridden farmland into an urban oasis with active community support is making a dramatic difference.

"The change in mindset that we've seen in both local people and traditional conservationists is unbelievable," he said.

He is also already planning to use his experience in the program as a springboard for future education and career advancement.

“I'm hoping to go for an MBA,” he said. “It's big shoes to fill but I am hoping to get there because my primary aim is to play a role in the biodiversity management in the Cape Floral Kingdom, especially the element of bridging the gap between biodiversity conservation and social development—it's the only way to get sustainable management of our rich ecosystem." (see Mzwandile Peter: A Capacity Building Program Success)

The Table Mountain Fund, a Capital Trust Fund designed to provide long-term funding to support biodiversity conservation in the Cape, was launched in 1998 by WWF South Africa with funds donated by the public and later support from the Global Environment Facility. Its partners include South African National Parks and a range of other governmental agencies and NGOs across the region.

Managing the Capacity Building Program is a natural extension of the Fund's primary focus, helping to create effective managers for landscapes and natural resources it seeks to conserve and who can act as role models within communities where public support and involvement are key to successful conservation.

In 2003, the Capacity Building Program enabled five people to participate in one-year management courses. These same management trainees are receiving support again this
year for work placement in various conservation agencies. The program is also supporting a number of people undertaking longer term studies.

February expects the program to be supporting some 90 management trainees in the coming months, including placements for short training courses.

“The problem we’re having now is that it’s difficult just to find people that fit the criteria—black and/or women at a management level—and who are interested in doing conservation,” February said.

“To be effective this project needs to extend across the Cape Floristic Region,” he said. “But since we’re based in Cape Town we get a lot of local interest, so I’m going on the road more now, reaching out to other communities one-on-one.”

- July 2004

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Connecting Conservationists In Africa

In Focus, January 2004

Information is key to effective conservation: collecting it, making sense of it and doing something with it. Two former Reuters news service correspondents, a chartered accountant and others have teamed together to develop a news service about Africa that will work in all three of these areas in the first dedicated service of its kind.

"Africa's environment—one of the last great natural wonders of the world—is under threat on virtually every front, yet its future health has immense implications not only for ordinary Africans but for the entire world," says Jonathan Clayton, co-developer of the Africa Environmental News Service (AENS) project and former Reuters regional bureau chief in the Maghreb and Eastern Africa.

"Despite this there is not one information service focusing on its plight," Clayton says. "AENS will do this, helped by people all over Africa and new technology to bring reports from some of the most remote parts of the planet."

The developers believe that if development processes are to take place in an environmentally friendly way it is critical and urgent, both for Africa and the international community, that all those who participate in these processes are given access to relevant information about the environment. The service is ultimately expected to be of use to a variety of audiences ranging from national governments, researchers, the private sector and even tourists.

The service, now in its design and market research phase with support from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, is the first dedicated to environmental information about Africa and is expected to provide a resource that draws attention to the linkages between Africa's environmental health and its potential for sustainable development and alleviation of poverty.

You can help with the team's market research. Visit the sample AENS Web site today at www.aens.org, and share your opinion about it by completing the simple and short survey questionnaire highlighted on the home page. Your time will be well spent in helping the developers create the most beneficial service possible.
The prototype site has been designed to stimulate ideas and provoke feedback as part of the market research exercise. It is not intended to simulate or prejudge the look of the final product. We recommend you explore the site to see how it works before answering the survey questionnaire.

Historically, information on environmental and conservation issues in Africa has relied on land-based communication and therefore timely news and data has been limited to the major cities. The emergence of new communications technologies such as satellite and mobile telephone networks offer up a new opportunity to make up-to-the-minute information available to the widest possible audience.

Currently, fragmented coverage of African environmental news and information is available from a number of sources but they tend to be patchy and have little in the way of original information, according to AENS co-developer Aidan Hartley who met Clayton while the two were working for Reuters in Nairobi.

"It struck both of us that there was an enormous gap in coverage of environmental issues across the continent by the established media," Hartley says. "We saw that even conventional news stories, such as humanitarian crises, had environmental elements that were being ignored. That was the seed for the project."

**The News Service**

AENS will operate through a network of regional correspondents supported by analysts, creating an independent information and news service that will provide original, comprehensive and timely coverage of environmental issues across Africa.

The service will address mainstream environmental topics as well as casting a lateral net to ensure capture and coverage of issues that are not conventionally reported from an environmental angle. These will include:

- Mismanagement and exploitation of natural resources
- Industrialization and development
- Urbanization
- Poverty
- Humanitarian crises and conflicts
- Globalization
- Political process and policy
- Degradation of wildlife habitats
- Loss of wildlife resources
- Desertification
- Pollution

An independent market research company has joined the team to help identify potential audiences and make sure their needs are met and ultimately incorporated into AENS' final business plan.
"More and more people in the independent sector now accept that the development and use of a research-based business plan greatly improves the likelihood of the project's success by anticipating market opportunities and pitfalls," says Purnima Chawla of Equals Three Communications, the market research company. "It is also increasingly being recognized as a hallmark of a high quality project and the professionalism of its executors."

AENS is developing three principal service streams:

- Original news and information sourced through a network of country-based correspondents and delivered on a daily basis both through the AENS Web site and in tailor-made form via e-mail to individual consumers
- An information exchange forum for the African environment hosting a variety of interactive information exchange forums for individuals and organizations working with, or interested in, African environmental issues
- A definitive knowledge bank for the African environment. As AENS' information and image database grows it is envisioned to become the primary source of environmental data for Africa—potentially its most valuable contribution and asset.

The online service is expected to include different levels of entry. The first level, for example, could be viewed by anyone visiting the site and will provide information about the AENS service and summarized headlines of the principal breaking stories of the day. Other levels would include a password-controlled system for paying subscribers.

All subscribers would get a daily package of news and information in brief via e-mail that could be tailored to the subscriber's preferences. There will also be a weekly package with features and analysis, interviews and topical editorial pieces.

The Web site will also contain information on events, contacts, projects and employment opportunities, along with live video footage, links to other sites and an online discussion forum for members.

"Using emerging technologies, we plan to source and package original news and information as it breaks direct from the most remote parts of the African front line, and distribute it worldwide in real time," Hartley says. "In addition, we plan to host various issue-based interactive exchange forums and to create a Web-accessible archive of information and reports from various sources.

"We hope this archive will be a valuable resource to a wide variety of researchers, practitioners and other interested parties in this area."

Initially, the provision of environmental information and news will be the primary face of AENS. Over time however, the
depth and breadth of archival information within its database could develop a critical mass of considerable importance.

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Conservation Stewardship in South Africa: Landowners to Lead the Way

In Focus, December 2003

In the southwest corner of South Africa lies the habitat of one of the most endangered types of vegetation in the Cape Floral Kingdom—renosterveld. For much of the year, many people might think it is dull looking and unimpressive but in the spring the vibrant tapestry of renosterveld vegetation within the Cape Floristic biodiversity hotspot is clearly and colorfully evident.

The Cape Floristic Region is home to more than 9,000 plant species, 70 percent of which are unique to the hotspot. One species, cancer bush (*Sutherlandia frustescens*) is being hailed as a wonder drug in the treatment of AIDS, cancer, diabetes and kidney and liver disorders.

Under threat from invasive alien plants, overgrazing, unsustainable burning practices, human encroachment and illegal flower collection, renosterveld is the focus of conservation efforts in the Cape region. And now local private landowners are emerging as the potential heroes of the day to preserve this species-rich threatened ecosystem.

Renosterveld contains large numbers of unique bulbs that are among the glories of the Cape. Many of the bulbs and cut flowers that have been hybridized and cultivated throughout the world, such as gladioli, freesias and pelargoniums, are actually originally renosterveld species. The diversity and abundance of bulbs can reach astounding levels. At one location, in just 1m² of renosterveld, 25,000 bulbs were recorded.

Today, less than 4 percent of coastal renosterveld remains (approximately 151,000 ha) and less than 1 percent of this is formally conserved. What does remain is fragmented in privately owned pockets of land, scattered throughout agricultural lands and therefore potentially under additional threat of being cleared for new agricultural land or other commercial development.

In fact, about 80 percent of South Africa's priority conservation land is in private and communal hands, so conservationists are having to develop innovative, commercially minded strategies that involve these
landholders.

"A commonly perceived approach to conservation in the past was to buy up the targeted area," says Sue Winter of the Botanical Society of South Africa. "In the case of South Africa’s scattered Cape renosterveld, this just isn't possible. The preferred approach is to engage the cooperation of the individual landowners with attractive stewardship options."

At first glance this kind of approach might seem extremely challenging but a partnership between Cape Nature Conservation (CNC) and the Botanical Society of South Africa is moving the concept forward to reality as part of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund's strategic approach to promote innovative private sector and community involvement in conserving landscapes surrounding biodiversity corridors in the hotspot. Their experiences thus far will be of great interest to others seeking to engage the private sector in conservation goals.

**Cultivating land stewards for conservation**

The Botanical Society carried out an attitude survey amongst renosterveld landowners and found willingness to be involved was not the major limitation but rather it was lack of practical incentives and assistance that held back positive action to conserve renosterveld land.

Consequently, the CNC-Botanical Society partnership has initiated a two-year pilot Conservation Stewardship Program, testing the adoption of three different stewardship options in three pilot areas, two in the Overberg and one on the Western Coast.

"The program recognizes that while you can convince people of the value of their land for conservation, incentives are required that offer more immediate and tangible benefits that will influence landowners' decisions on how to utilize their land for subsistence, profit or leisure," says Chris Martens, CNC Stewardship Program Manager.

In the past, willing landowners designated their land as natural heritage sites, conservancies or private nature reserves, amongst other private conservation approaches. However none of these options necessarily provides long-term security for the land. A landowner can withdraw from any of these options at any time and when the property is sold, the new owner is not tied to continuing the conservation effort.

Financial incentives for private landowners to become active conservationists are currently limited and CNC quickly realized that it had to shift emphasis from incentives to stewardship motivation.

"For the program to work to maximum effect, we must understand the values and needs that a landowner is bringing to the table, and know the best way to approach him them and initiate discussions around entering into a stewardship agreement," Winter says. "Effective communication is the key and it can make or break the intended outcomes."
With this at the forefront of thinking, the CEPF pilot project recently conducted a Landowner Negotiation Enrichment Workshop for CNC staff. By focusing on the importance of balancing the landowners' needs with conservation goals and objectives, it should be easier to engage the interest and commitment of landowners. (click here to see the report from the negotiation workshop in PDF format, including lessons learned from working with landowners in other situations).

"There exists a commonly held fear and suspicion amongst landowners that their land might be expropriated from them by the State or by Cape Nature Conservation if their land has high conservation value," Winter says.

"We want to move away from this acquisition mindset. We're trying to show farmers that stewardship is about them, as the landowner, wisely using, managing and protecting the natural resources under their care. A sense of pride and ownership for the valuable biodiversity on their land needs to be deeply instilled."

While the program is still in its youth, approximately 10 landowners are now seriously engaging with the program about the possibility of securing their land through one of the program's stewardship options.

One engaged landowner's farm includes close to 900 hectares of renosterveld, the largest area of privately held renosterveld in the country. The farm is also home to the largest population of the endangered geometric tortoise.

**Stewardship options**

The new stewardship model allows for varying degrees of engagement but provides a clear framework for the provision of incentives in accordance with the length of commitment and the biodiversity value of the land.

There are three options within the model: Conservation Areas, Cooperation Agreements and Contract Nature Reserves. The higher the biodiversity value or importance of the site, the more stringent the development restrictions, and the more substantial the assistance and incentives offered from the conservation agency. An attractive feature of the new stewardship scheme is that the terms and conditions for any of the stewardship options can be tailored to meet the specific needs of the owner and the property.

The Conservation Area option is flexible with no defined period of commitment and few land-use limitations, and above the normal level of advice and support that CNC extension services can provide, the landowner could receive assistance with management plans and farm maps.

The middle option, a Cooperation Agreement, is a negotiated legal agreement between CNC and a landowner for conserving biodiversity in the medium term, such as five to 10 years. This option is suitable for conservation-worthy land, especially wetlands and water catchments, and could allow limited biodiversity-friendly development provided natural processes are not jeopardized on the property. Benefits could include assistance from CNC with fire, alien, plant and animal management.
Contract nature reserves, which are recommended for critically threatened sites such as renosterveld remnants or other priority areas could enjoy increased marketing exposure and substantial assistance with habitat management. Very little development will be contemplated in this category, but owner access and residence rights will not be restricted in any way. Any of the three options could be applicable to just a portion of a property such as an isolated forest patch or an entire property.

While financial incentives remain few and far between, a great boost to the stewardship program comes in the form of new legislation announced at the recent World Parks Congress in Durban. The soon to be promulgated Property Rates Bill in South Africa allows for sites with conservation merit to qualify for rates rebates, provided they enter into binding, contractual arrangements with state nature conservation authorities. Rural land use has not previously been charged rates and therefore this new bill, is likely to make the contract nature reserve stewardship option all the more attractive.

"What makes this project so new and cutting edge is that, in South Africa, the concept of stewardship has not really been branded as such," Winter says. "Private landowners have a pivotal role to play in conservation. We need to work harder to communicate both the motivational and financial incentives of responsible stewardship to these landowners so that the benefits of conservation are clearly in their favor as well."

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Students Get Off to Strong Start for Conservation Education

In Focus, August 2003

by Corrina Hackney

Amid the diverse student population of Kent University in England, a multinational team is nearing the end of an intensive 10 weeks of specialized training to become community educators with a single mission: to promote local pride in the environment in some of the planet's most threatened ecosystems.

The university course—offered in the United Kingdom and Mexico—is the first step in a 2.5-year program based on Rare's Pride Campaigns.

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is supporting a major expansion to biodiversity hotspots of these highly successful campaigns by a new partnership between Rare and Conservation International's (CI) International Communications Department (see press release: New Alliance).

In this initial university phase—run by Rare staff in conjunction with the University of Kent in the UK—students receive intensive training in all the skills needed to produce and carry out comprehensive conservation education campaigns.

"The university component of the course covers an incredible range of activities—from conservation law and biodiversity management to social marketing techniques and practicalities such as puppet-making," says Rosemary Godfrey, Rare's course manager at Kent University.

Pride Campaigns are run by local organizations and aim to appeal to the public on an emotional level. The campaigns focus activity on a single species, aiming to capture a sense of public pride and ultimately to change behavior and better protect the local species. The CEPF-supported campaigns will take place in 13 sites in China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Southern and West Africa and Central and South America.

Unique
While there are a number of conservation education courses offered in other institutions, the Rare course is unmatched in the kind of support structures it gives to students. The program is also unique in combining academic and technical training with hands-on campaign activity and implementation in the field.

The students start with the 10-week university component, followed by a 10-week preparation phase during which they each develop a comprehensive campaign plan using stakeholder meetings and attitudinal surveys. Each student will identify a key theme tailored to their local communities, core objectives and a species to be the focus. They then implement the campaign, returning to the UK after the first year to report back and share experiences.

Throughout the program, each student receives one-to-one support from course lecturers and RARE and CI staff to translate theory into practice during their campaigns.

"They are supported through weekly telephone calls (now free through MSN), online discussions with staff and fellow students and two on-site visits," says Godfrey, who developed an online discussion club now used by past and present participants to share best practices and address common challenges.

Commitment to Conservation Education

The students, who range in age from 22-45, have been carefully selected based on a demonstrated need for conservation awareness as a key conservation strategy in their home region.

Their existing involvement in conservation work, a supportive local employer and their individual dedication and commitment were also strong elements in the selection process. Personalities are strong and cheerful—two essential qualities if they are to succeed as the "voice" for the threatened species in their respective regions.

"There are not a lot of opportunities for conservation education," says Daniela Lerda, manager of CI's Community Education Program. "It is a very limited field in terms of training so there is a huge sense of privilege among the students, especially because the course has a hands-on component that will allow them to design locally appropriate programs for their communities."

None of the students knew each other prior to arriving in the UK but immediately established themselves as a cohesive group. The strength of this group will pay dividends when they return home and look to each other for additional support, via the Internet, while carrying out their campaigns.

The close, supportive nature of the group is characteristic of the program. Although the students will be leading their own campaigns back home, they will have the ongoing support of RARE and CI staff, fellow students and also past and future students through a Rare Club online community.

Course leader Godfrey and the other Rare staff are constantly looking for ways to make the program as well
networked and supported as possible. The online community was developed to allow students past and present to talk to each other about challenges they face and solutions they are considering or have tried and tested.

One student, 34-year-old Clyde Scott, from the Cape Floristic Region hotspot in South Africa, said his preliminary campaign plan includes working the full network of 70 schools in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, to create a new generation of conservation-aware youngsters. He says the added layer of support from the online RARE staff and fellow students will be "a godsend."

"We can find out about what the other students have done, how they’re getting on and we can learn from their experiences," Scott says.

Students for the current course at Kent University have come from South Africa, Sierra Leone, the Philippines, China and Indonesia. They have a variety of backgrounds reflecting the program's selection criteria. Some students already hold conservation-related qualifications; others have basic school qualifications. Conservation experience and enthusiasm are more important, however, than academic qualifications.

Indira Lacerna (see photo right), a 31-year-old student from the Philippines hotspot, holds conservation-related qualifications already but had been looking for a program like this for years. Morne Farmer, 22, from South Africa, has his high school certificate and oceans of passion and enthusiasm.

The students' participation is fully funded throughout the campaign, including salary and a budget for campaign activity, meaning that no potential candidate or threatened region need be excluded for lack of financial resources.

Lacerna says she is planning major radio campaigns alongside building core youth groups. She intends to set up regular biodiversity field trips so that local young people can see first-hand what it's all about. This won't be easy. Transport in the Philippines presents logistical difficulties while rebel activity can make visits to communities a risky element of the job.

Edward Sesay (see photo right), a 45-year-old student from Sierra Leone in the Guinean Forests of West Africa hotspot, believes that adapting what they are currently learning to their own political and social environment will be one of the greatest challenges they face. While many countries have communications and logistical problems, Sierra Leone remains an unstable region and this will present an additional challenge.

Zhang Zhe, 25, is one of two students who will pioneer the campaign program in the Mountains of Southwest China hotspot. She acknowledges that the culturally controlled flow of information in China may present challenges but she is optimistic for her ambitions to engage the enthusiasm of China's young people. Zhang Zhe is assessing the possibilities of working in a community near Tibet. Here, one of the practical elements of the Kent course could be put into play: puppet shows that can cross language barriers.
and could also be used as an income generator in tourist areas.

Using the success stories of Rare's Pride campaigns in choosing a flagship species to focus understanding, Zhang Zhe has already identified the white-eared pheasant as a candidate. This bird has religious links amongst local people but is threatened by tourism, illegal hunting, logging and rapid economic development together with low environmental awareness about its status.

"My intention is to engage as many groups as possible to take ownership of the problem," Zhang Zhe says. "I am there to act as a facilitator so that the work will continue long after this particular diploma campaign ends."

In these next few weeks, the students are learning how to analyze problems and devise solutions that will benefit the people and wildlife of their region. When the students return to Kent University and the Rare course next year to report and review, they will hope to receive their Diploma in Conservation Education. The unique approach of the Rare course results not just in academic recognition but also practical achievement in conservation education thanks to the hands-on nature of this remarkable program.

Learn more:

- Visit www.rareconservation.org for more on RARE and Pride Campaigns, including success stories.
- Visit www.rareconservation.org.uk to learn more about the Kent University course and the students.

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First Wilderness Management Courses Held in Cape

July 2003

Seventeen field rangers and reserve managers participated in the first wilderness management training courses in the Western Cape, South Africa during June. The courses, presented by the Wilderness Action Group and accredited by the University of Natal's Centre for Environment and Development, were the first offered in the Cape Floristic Region biodiversity hotspot.

The Wilderness Action Group (WAG) has conducted education and training programs for wilderness managers and administrators and communities living adjacent to wilderness areas for more than 10 years in South Africa and in Namibia for the past five years. The newly offered courses in the Western Cape are part of an expansion supported by a grant from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund.

"The wilderness concept is little understood throughout this country and it is almost unknown elsewhere on the subcontinent," says Drummond Densham, Wilderness Concepts and Practice Course convenor and WAG chairman.

"One of the ways to raise awareness and improve management of these areas is to ensure that wilderness managers, key persons in the local communities and others have a good understanding of the uniqueness of these areas and appreciate that a different approach to management and use is essential. To do this, specialized training is vital."

Government-designated wilderness areas in the Western Cape include Boomsmansbos, Cederberg, Doringrivier and Grootwinterhoek wilderness areas.

The training program involves lectures, discussions and group case study work. All participants are required to complete all group work assignments and to submit an essay.

The WAG courses remain the only ones of their kind in southern Africa. To date, more than 600 people have benefited from both basic and/or advanced training, including delegates at the 7th World Wilderness Congress.
held in 2001 in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

Since the Congress, WAG has learned that participants from Brazil, Ghana, Uganda and Russia have applied lessons learned during the course in their own countries. WAG has also received requests to present the courses in India, Russia and Zimbabwe as well as other parts of South Africa.

Learn more:

- Read WAG's special report about the Western Cape wilderness training courses (PDF)
- Global Analysis Finds Nearly Half the Earth is Still Wilderness
- World Commission on Protected Areas forms new Wilderness Task Force

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Local Coordination Key to CEPF Expansion

December 2002

Key to success is ensuring that the right organizations are involved in the right projects from the outset. As part of its expansion in 2002, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) launched a new approach to coordinate and expand its portfolio from the ground.

The approach centers on engaging locally based coordinators in diverse ways tailored to the specific region. These coordinators help lay the groundwork, expand the reach and exponentially increase the level of local engagement and support.

In the Atlantic Forest biodiversity hotspot, exploration of how best to coordinate pointed to local organizations themselves. Grant agreements are under way with Conservation International-Brasil, Fundação Biodiversitas, Associação Mico-Leão-Dourado, Instituto de Estudos Sócio-Ambientais do Sul da Bahia and SOS Mata Atlântica to coordinate vital aspects of the CEPF strategy in the region.

These include small grants programs to build capacity among local organizations, programs to support the creation of private reserves and focus efforts on protecting critically endangered species and a locally based strategic coordination mechanism.

In the Cape Floristic Region in South Africa, the CEPF strategy focuses on catalyzing civil society action on the most urgent priorities in the Cape Action Plan for the Environment (C.A.P.E.) funded by the Global Environment Facility and the World Bank. Here, CEPF determined coordination would best come from the center: the C.A.P.E. Coordination Unit. This independent unit is responsible for coordinating and engaging C.A.P.E.’s many implementing agencies, donors and stakeholders. It now coordinates CEPF implementation in the hotspot as part of a special five-year grant.

Explore the C.A.P.E. interactive project map with links to all affiliated project sites with photos, information and contact details for each project.

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Table Mountain Fund Awards First Grants to Create Conservation Role Models

In Focus, December 2002

Eleven people will soon be on the path to conservation leadership positions in South Africa as the first to benefit from the Table Mountain Fund (TMF) Capacity Building Program in the Cape Floristic Region hotspot.

The new $900,000, four-year program, funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, aims to enable previously disadvantaged persons, such as women and particularly black South Africans, to become conservation project managers and leaders.

"This is the first significant intervention into building black conservation managers since independence in 1994," says TMF Manager Brett Myrdal.

"Up until now, the training of black conservation managers has been left to individual conservation agencies and it has been largely neglected," he says. "This program will create competent, confident role models for conservation and that is really the key to conservation in South Africa."

The TMF Approval Group chose the 11 winners out of 30 candidates in late November.

The 11 people will receive small grants, ranging from $500 to $10,000, to fund training in one to three year diplomas and degrees in conservation management as well as short courses in management run by the Graduate School of Business.

The TMF has been in operation since 1998 and has expertise in the efficient management of small grant funds and project development. The Global Environment Facility and the World Bank both support the TMF as well.

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http://www.cepf.net/
CEPF Expands to Nine Hotspots

March 2002

This year marks a major expansion for the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), with grants for conservation projects now available in six additional biodiversity hotspots.

The total amount available in these hotspots is $41.5 million over five years.

The hotspots newly eligible for funding—Atlantic Forest Region, Cape Floristic Region, Chocó-Darién-Western Ecuador, Mesoamerica, the Philippines and Sundaland—are among the biologically richest and most endangered areas on Earth. In some hotspots, CEPF targets specific areas, such as Sumatra in Sundaland, for maximum impact.

For each of these hotspots, CEPF has developed an ecosystem profile identifying the niche for CEPF investments to have the greatest value.

These strategic directions for investment are key: each project must meet one of these for approval. Potential grantees can download the profiles in PDF format in multiple languages or view the profile text in English in our Where We Work section.

In December, the CEPF Donor Council also approved additional funding for the Guinean Forests of West Africa, Madagascar and Tropical Andes hotspots.

DID YOU KNOW

The CEPF Donor Council has since approved expansion to four additional hotspots: Caucasus, Arc Mountains, Southwest China Succulent Karoo and

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A South African partnership for sustaining life in the fynbos and adjacent shores

The Cape Floristic Region (CFR) in South Africa is the smallest and richest of the world’s six floral kingdoms and is uniquely located entirely within the borders of one country. Its rich biodiversity is under serious threat because of the conversion of natural habitat to permanent agriculture and range-lands for cattle, sheep and ostriches, inappropriate fire management, rapid and insensitive development, the over-exploitation of water and marine and coastal resources, and infestation by alien species. In addition, pollution and climate change are taking their toll. Some important terrestrial habitats have been reduced by over 90 per cent and less than five per cent of land in the lowlands enjoys any conservation status.

A carefully targeted long-term intervention is required to avoid severe negative consequences for both biodiversity and livelihoods in the region.

What has been done so far?

With support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the South African government has developed an innovative long-term programme to protect the rich biological heritage of the CFR. The overall goal of this programme, entitled Cape Action for People and the Environment (C.A.P.E.), is: “...the natural environment of the CFR and adjacent marine environment will be effectively conserved, restored wherever appropriate, and will deliver significant benefits to the people in a way that is embraced by local communities, endorsed by government and recognised internationally.”

Since the strategy was developed in 2000, several international donor agencies have provided support. The first real boost came with the approval of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) of a US$6-million investment in civil society involvement in the C.A.P.E. programme.

Then the Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative (ABI) was awarded US$3.1-million via the United Nations Development Programme to undertake a five-year programme of conservation and development on the Agulhas Plain, led by SANParks and partner agencies.

Most importantly, the GEF has provided a further $11.32 million to support the C.A.P.E. partners to implement an extensive programme of activities over the next five years.

During the period 2004 to 2009 the implementing agencies will accelerate implementation by ensuring that biodiversity becomes a key factor in the social and economic development of the region. The programme has six interrelated components:

- institutional strengthening
- conservation education
- programme co-ordination, management and monitoring
- consolidating and unleashing the socio-economic potential in priority protected areas
- conservation stewardship and laying the foundations of a biodiversity economy
- and integrating biodiversity concerns into watershed management.

More details can be found at the C.A.P.E. website: www.capeaction.org.za.
KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY MARTHINUS VAN SCHALKWYK MP, MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM, AT THE C.A.P.E PARTNERS CONFERENCE HELD AT KIRSTENBOSCH, ON 8 MAY 2004

CAPE Conference:
$11,3 Million for Biodiversity and Conservation

Yesterday saw the official launch of National Environment Week 2004. It is no coincidence that the C.A.P.E Partners Conference takes place within this context, because the message of both is identical: that a sustainable world, and a healthy, thriving environment, is not only possible, it is imperative.

When the Cape Action for People and the Environment (CAPE) was established in 2000 it broke new ground. By combining the energies, insights and resources of Government, academic institutions, NGO’s, CBO’s, and international partners, CAPE was a unique experiment, with immense potential.

As we gather here today, that experiment has already paid dividends. This conference will provide much the same opportunity for CAPE and its partners that National Environment Week provides for the rest of South Africa: a chance to reflect on and celebrate important achievements, and more importantly to issue a call to action.

The CAPE strategy embodies the new approach to biodiversity and conservation that has developed in South Africa during our First Decade of Freedom. It rejects the notion that conservation and development are polar opposites. It refutes the belief that the interests of humanity and the interests of nature are necessarily in conflict. It places people firmly at the centre of conservation and makes the concrete connection between the environment, the economy, and prosperity in our communities. This is a strategy that carries the complete support and endorsement of the South African Government and our Department.

The Cape Floristic Region may be the smallest but it remains the richest of the world’s six floral kingdoms. Nowhere else on the planet is so much life, in such variety and abundance, packed into so small an area. It is a treasure and an asset that belongs not only to South Africa, but to the people of the world.

I am particularly pleased therefore that this conference effectively anticipates the meeting of the World Heritage Council in China towards the end of June, where we expect the final decision to be made inscribing the Cape Floristic Region as South Africa’s sixth World Heritage Site.
This will mean that locations like the Table Mountain National Park, De Hoop Nature Reserve, the Baviaanskloof, and Cederberg will take up their rightful place alongside other national treasures like the Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park, Robben Island, and Mapungubwe as internationally recognised and protected sites of universal significance.

We know though that the Cape Floristic Region it is also an asset under siege. With about 5.2 million people in both the Western and Eastern Cape living within the region – some 20-30% of whom live in our rural areas – we understand the pressures of poverty, hunger, and unemployment. Conversion of land for farming, grazing, and development has combined with pollution, climate change, and over-exploitation of water, floral, and marine resources to take its toll.

The question that CAPE correctly asks, and around which this conference centres, is **how best to build the biodiversity economy** – especially when most of these natural riches lie on private and communal land? The answer is that there is no chance of ever conserving biodiversity without the active support and understanding of the people who live on that land. It can never be a question of the people or the environment, conservation or the economy. What is needed is greater innovation to unlock the economic potential of conservation-friendly land use.

Our new Biodiversity Act provides the foundation for building our economy through biodiversity – involving communities in ecotourism, cultural entrepreneurship, and environmental management. This is also why our Government has aligned itself to the CAPE strategy – simultaneously creating tens of thousands of job opportunities and advancing conservation goals, through initiatives like Working for Water, Coast Care and other Expanded Public Works Programs.

Over the last four years CAPE has implemented more than 100 separate projects to support these goals, boosted by funding like the $6 million received through the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, and the Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative which was recently awarded $3.1 million. **I am very pleased that we will today witness the signing of a further $9 million grant from the Global Environment Facility through the World Bank to the NBI, which will be followed tomorrow by another $2 million grant through the United Nations Development Programme.**

It is a positive irony that in the same way that the CAPE Programme was generously supported by our international partners when it was formed in 2000, they are again behind us in our efforts to expand its activities into critical new areas. We thank them for their continued assistance.

Apart from helping to support the next phase of CAPE implementation, this funding will be used through the NBI to strengthen conservation institutions, education programmes and to expand responsible eco-tourism. It will also help to consolidate and expand the Baviaanskloof, Cederberg, and Garden Route protected areas, two Marine Protected Areas, and two estuarine protected areas.

I know that Professor Brian Huntley, the CEO of our National Botanical Institute is speaking next, and I would not like to take away any of the focus areas of his address, but I do want to say how pleased we are about **the transformation of the NBI into the new National Biodiversity Institute.** A new mandate and a new national institution will do much to take up the torch of conservation in our next decade of Freedom, and I want to assure Professor Huntley and his team of my support in their endeavours.
One of the most important benchmarks of any strategy is its measurable achievements. In this regard the CAPE Programme is setting the bar high for the next five years. I am informed that amongst the deliberations of this conference will be targeting an expansion of our protected area estate by 4000 km² to meet the commitment set at the recent Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Malaysia. I see that other targets for the CAPE programme include increasing civil society participants by 30%, increasing the number of jobs directly associated with the project by 20%, and ensuring that a Cape Floristic Region education strategy has been fully implemented across the area by 2009.

These are challenging targets, but the end-goal is critical for our people, our country and our environment. Our Department stands ready to take the hand of all people of good faith in meeting these challenges in partnership. Every community, every business, every person has a responsibility to our future. We offer our resources, our energies and our enthusiasm to be part of the solution.

I wish you everything of the best for your deliberations, and the assurance of our continued support for the CAPE Programme.

ENQUIRIES: ROB SPAULL

CELL: 083-777-8563
Aim

The implementation of C.A.P.E. has essentially been a testing and piloting period, and has offered significant lessons for the programme rollout. Entitled “Innovating Conservation”, the aim of the C.A.P.E. Partners’ Conference 2004 was to bring together all of the implementing partners of C.A.P.E. to review and share lessons learned in implementing the C.A.P.E. Strategy in the period since 2000 to date.

Conference Objectives

- Identify all initiatives, partnerships and funding in the C.A.P.E programme, record and recognise them formally
- Evaluate the efficiency of what has been done to date (outputs, deliverables)
- Evaluate impact on achievement of strategy objectives
- Derive key lessons, insights, directions, and achievements etc
- Provide the basis for a successor to the original CAPE (2000) document
- Make recommendations to the C.A.P.E. Implementing Committee (CIC)
- Launch the C.A.P.E. Action Partners programme
- Sign the GEF/World Bank/UNDP grant agreement

Desired outcomes:

- Raise the profile of the programme nationally and internationally
- Forge stronger alignment and foster partnerships
- Develop a C.A.P.E. community
- Help to profile the establishment of the Centre for Biodiversity Conservation at Kirstenbosch

The conference was not intended as a “show and tell” for projects, but to provide a critical review of lessons learnt from implementation to date, to inform future work.
Overview of Conference Programme:

The conference process comprised a public plenary, followed by a review workshop, a half-day brainstorm workshop and by a funder round table meeting. The first session took the form of a plenary on the afternoon of June 1, which included high-level input, provided wider exposure for the programme, reflected on the “State of C.A.P.E.” and highlighted some achievements.

This was followed by workshop sessions with invited participants on June 2, which focused on reviewing progress with implementation. On the morning of June 3, independent reviewers presented their key findings for discussion. Participants identified issues that need to be explored further, and these were prioritized and workshopped with the objective of generating ideas, new approaches and creative solutions. In the afternoon of June 3, recommendations were formulated by the meeting, for submission to the CIC.

After the conference, a funder round table meeting was held on June 4 to review current funding of the programme and identify gaps, and to reflect on the conference process a means of assessing the performance of the programme as a whole.
MAJOR CONSERVATION GRANT AND BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE
MARKS WORLD ENVIRONMENT WEEK

JUNE 1, 2004
Cape Town, South Africa

Conservation of the Cape Floristic Region was given a major boost today when a grant agreement of $11.3 million from the Global Environment Facility was signed and endorsed at Kirstenbosch by the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Marthinus van Schalkwyk, government representatives, and leading conservation agencies.

In his first speech on biodiversity policy since his appointment, and marking the opening of the C.A.P.E. (Cape Action for People and the Environment) conference, Minister Van Schalkwyk welcomed the grant that is set to enable effective conservation management. The Minister also announced the new National Biodiversity Institute - previously known as the National Botanical Institute (NBI) and the present home of the C.A.P.E. programme.

The C.A.P.E. programme is recognised globally as a leader in bioregional conservation management. Its innovative strategy has been developed to ensure that conservation not only involves people, but becomes a foundation for building economic activity based on biodiversity, e.g. the exponential rise in nature-based tourism opportunities and employment, now calculated to exceed R6 billion per annum in the Cape Floristic Region (CFR).

The GEF investment in the C.A.P.E. strategy, managed by a unique partnership of government and NGOs, will unlock opportunities in two major ways. Firstly it will invest directly in unleashing the economic potential of protected areas and ensuring that land-use decisions conserve biodiversity throughout the landscape, from Nieuwoudtville to Port Elizabeth and maximise returns for the long-term survival of biodiversity throughout the
Secondly, it will help to strengthen the institutions involved. In particular, it will enable the newly named National Biodiversity Institute to take on its expanded role, announced today by Minister Van Schalkwyk.

“C.A.P.E. has already shown that conservation and economic development don’t always have to be at odds with each other – there are important economic linkages. The link to benefits is not only through tourism, but in more viable land-uses involving landowners and other communities in a range of stewardship options including farm-stays, flower harvesting and the production of essential oils from fynbos,” said Trevor Sandwith, C.A.P.E. Coordinator.

Linking benefits to biodiversity also increases the incentive to conserve resources in the long term.

One of the most important economic linkages concerns the production of large quantities of clean water for the cities and towns of the region. Water is central to economic development and poverty eradication. Sustainable production of water can only be achieved if some of the value is returned to effective management of alien plants and fire; in this way, creating jobs, conserving biodiversity and improving development prospects.

The vast majority of South Africans have not always had access to National parks and other protected areas. International trends and South Africa’s own transition has changed that, and increasing efforts are being made to involve people in both the management and access to benefits.

Cape Nature Conservation’s Youth Development programme is a good example of this where protected areas are used as a base for developing life-skills.
In line with government’s strategy to alleviate poverty and unemployment, the implementation of the C.A.P.E. strategy is strongly aligned to government’s Expanded Public Works Programme – a programme to teach new skills and draw significant numbers of unemployed people into meaningful employment.

Minister Van Schalkwyk reiterated government’s support for the C.A.P.E. strategy. “C.A.P.E. has set challenging targets, but the end-goal is critical for our people, our country and our environment. Our Department stands ready to take the hand of all people of good faith in meeting these challenges in partnership. Every community, every business, every person has a responsibility to our future. We offer our resources, our energies and our enthusiasm to be part of the solution,” he said.

South Africa’s conservation and development programmes will continue to work hand in hand to deliver on natural resource management priorities while transferring real skills and creating entrepreneurial opportunities,” concluded Minister Van Schalkwyk.

ENDS

More information on C.A.P.E. may be found at www.capeaction.org.za

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SOUTH AFRICA IS AWARDED US$11.3 MILLION FROM GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY FOR THE C.A.P.E. PROGRAMME

In May 2004, the World Bank Board of Directors agreed that the Bank will manage the implementation of the C.A.P.E. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development Project in South Africa to the tune of a US$9 million grant drawn from a total grant of US$11.32 million approved by the Council of Global Environment Facility (GEF) in May 2003. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is involved with implementing the remaining part of the grant.

The Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development Project will support South Africa’s efforts to conserve the Cape Floristic Region, the smallest and most threatened floral regions of the world. It will build on the very successful Cape Strategy and Action Plan (C.A.P.E.) which was developed with GEF resources through the World Bank in 2000.

The project also forms a part of a 20-year program of the South African Government implemented by the South African National Botanical Institute to conserve this unique resource in a manner which will support the further development of the region’s nature-based economy. It will support agencies to pilot new models for conserving these natural assets as well as mainstreaming conservation actions into normal economic activities and government programs.

"Since September 2000, considerable progress has been made by local partners involved with C.A.P.E.; a robust partnership has been developed at the highest level of government and the various agencies have aligned their work programs and budgets to the implementation of C.A.P.E.", acknowledged Christopher James Warner, the World Bank’s Task Team Leader for the project.

The Cape Floristic Region (CFR), including its unique mountains, marine environment and wetlands provides important ecological services to the urban and rural economy. The conservation of water catchments, fishing resources, plant diversity and eco-tourism assets is critical to the economy of the area. The CFR region includes 1200 threatened plant species and marine resources as well as 148 private nature reserves, 43 conservancies, 36 natural heritage sites and two biosphere reserves of private land under conservation and management.

A particularly important issue to be addressed is the design of a system so that landowners and communities in ecologically important areas are rewarded for conserving biodiversity and environment assets. The model being advocated will bring private landowners into the conservation economy rather than for the State to purchase land for fenced off conservation areas.

"The project was acknowledged at the 2003 World Parks Congress in Durban as a leader in bioregional planning", said Trevor Sandwith, C.A.P.E. Coordinator, who hopes that lessons learnt from the project would not only be replicated in South Africa but also in other parts of the world.

Over its five and a half years lifespan, the project will leverage additional funding of some US$44 million from domestic resources into the conservation of the Cape Floristic Region, which has already received US$6 million from the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund.
The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a mechanism for providing new and additional grant and concessional funding to meet the agreed incremental costs in achieving agreed global environmental benefits in the four focal areas - Climate change; Biological diversity; International waters; and Ozone layer depletion. GEF also supports the work of the global agreements to combat desertification and eliminate persistent organic pollutants.

The World Bank Group is one of GEF’s implementing agencies and supports countries in preparing GEF co-financed projects and supervises their implementation. It plays the primary role in ensuring the development and management of investment projects. The Bank draws upon its investment experience in eligible countries to promote investment opportunities and to mobilize private sector, bilateral, multilateral, and other government and non-government sector resources that are consistent with GEF objectives and national sustainable development strategies. Since 1991, the World Bank Group has committed $1.52 billion in GEF resources and $2.25 billion in Bank group co-financing for GEF projects in 80 countries. In addition to GEF and Bank resources, it has mobilized additional co-financing of $5.48 billion from other donors.

Issued by: Chris Warner, World Bank Task Team Leader
MORE PROTECTED AREAS

Cape floral kingdom receives $11.3m grant

MELANIE GOSLING
Environment Writer

PROTECTION of the Cape’s unique flora has been given a major boost with an $11.3 million grant from the Global Environment Facility. This was announced by Environment Minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk at the opening of the Cape Action for People and Environment (CAPE) conference at Kirstenbosch yesterday.

Van Schalkwyk also said the Cape Floristic Region was expected to be made a World Heritage Site at the meeting of the World Heritage Council in China later this month.

“This will mean locations like the Table Mountain National Park, De Hoop Nature Reserve, the Baviaanskloof and Cederberg will take up their rightful place alongside other national treasures like the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park, Robben Island and Mapungubwe, as internationally recognised and protected sites of universal significance,” Van Schalkwyk said.

The $11.3m would be used to expand the protected areas in the Baviaanskloof, Cederberg and the Garden Route, for education programmes and ecotourism projects.

Van Schalkwyk said when CAPE was established in 2000 it had embodied a new approach to biodiversity conservation which rejected the notion that conservation and development were polar opposites.

“It refutes the belief that the interests of humanity and the interests of nature are necessarily in conflict. It places people firmly at the centre of conservation and makes the concrete connection between the environment, the economy and prosperity in our communities. This is a strategy which carries the complete support of the government and our department,” he said.

He said the Cape Floristic Kingdom was the smallest, but the richest of the world’s six floral kingdoms.

“Nowhere else on the planet is so much life, in such variety and abundance, packed into so small an area. It is a treasure and an asset that belongs not only to South Africa but to the people of the world,” Van Schalkwyk said.

The new Biodiversity Act provided the foundation for building the economy through biodiversity by involving communities in ecotourism, cultural entrepreneurship and environmental management.

Over the last four years, CAPE had implemented over 100 projects to support these goals.

“This conference will be targeting an expansion of our protected areas by 4 000 square kilometres to meet the commitment set at the Convention on Biological Diversity in Malaysia,” he said.
Law now protects SA's biodiversity

JOHN YELD
Environment Writer

President Thabo Mbeki has signed into law South Africa's new Biodiversity Act, which is hailed by some as the most significant environmental legislation adopted in 10 years of democratic government. Because of its incredibly rich biological diversity – the sum of all species of indigenous animals and plants – South Africa is ranked the third most biologically important nation in the world, after Brazil and Indonesia.

The new act now gives the highest possible political protection to this biodiversity.

Among other things, it requires full environmental impact assessments before the introduction of any genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

The act also makes provision for communities to share the profits of any exploitation of natural materials involving their indigenous knowledge.

An example is the case of the San/Bushman communities who will benefit from a commercial slimming product derived from the Hoodia cactus plant, which they have known for centuries, chewing its leaves as an appetite suppressant.

"The act regulates for the first time what we call 'bio-prospecting,'" explained Environmental Affairs and Tourism director-general Chippy Olver.

"For companies to be able to bio-prospect, they will now have to go through a regulatory system which gives protection to indigenous communities."

Also for the first time, the act gives a legal framework for agreements such as the contract between the National Botanical Institute (NBI) and US horticultural company Ball to develop commercially valuable hybrids from some indigenous South African plant species.

And it will make it significantly more difficult for developers to damage or destroy any biologically sensitive natural areas.

"Up to now, we've had no specific legislation dealing with biodiversity," said Olver.

"You've got some general principles floated in the National Environmental Management Act and in the provincial ordinances.

"But this existing legislation has been very fragmented, and for the first time we have a law specifically focused on the conservation of biodiversity." The act creates a basic legal framework in terms of which the Environment Minister can promulgate a national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

It also provides for the identification of biodiversity "hotspots" and "bio-regions," which will then be given legal recognition.

Different government agencies and stakeholders will be obliged to mesh their plans – provincial plans or integrated development plans at local government level – with these national biodiversity plans, resulting in a co-ordinated approach, Olver explained.

The act would not require developers to get additional permits, he suggested. "But it will add a very important dimension, because over the next few years all these bio-regions will be given legal recognition, and then any environmental impact assessment will have as its point of departure the bio-regional plan."

The act also covers alien invasive species, which are a major threat to biodiversity, and puts obligations on private landowners and the government to clear alien invasive vegetation from their properties.

It also establishes the SA National Biodiversity Institute (Sanbi), which is the legal successor of the current NBI.

"This is probably the most exciting biodiversity move we've made in years," Olver said.
THE CAPE FLORISTIC REGION BECOMES SOUTH AFRICA'S SIXTH WORLD HERITAGE SITE

The world agrees:

On June 30 2004 the Cape Floristic Region (CFR) was honoured by the global community as South Africa's sixth World Heritage Site. The CFR joins Robben Island, the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park, Sterkfontein - Cradle of Humankind, Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape and the uKhahlamba-Drakensberg Park as South Africa's World Heritage Sites.

At its meeting in Suzhou, China, the World Heritage Committee decided that South Africa's Cape Floristic Region is of "outstanding universal significance to humanity". Apart from its exceptional beauty, the Cape Floristic Region represents ongoing ecological and biological processes associated with the fynbos biome and is one of richest areas for plants in the world.

The Cape Floristic Region World Heritage Site is made up of eight separate protected areas, spanning the Eastern and Western Cape. These areas, including Table Mountain and the Baviaanskloof are together considered the most important representative examples of the Cape Floristic Region. The other sites are the De Hoop Nature Reserve, Boland Mountain Complex, Groot Winterhoek Wilderness Area, Swartberg Complex, Boomsmansbos Wilderness Area, and Cederberg Wilderness Area. This constitutes a serial nomination, to which other areas that qualify may be added in the future. A unique feature of the Site is that it includes Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, the first time that a botanical garden has been included in a natural heritage site.

The World Heritage Committee commended South Africa for its Cape Action for People and the Environment Programme (C.A.P.E.), which involves government and civil society in measures to ensure the ongoing integrity of the Site.

"The World's heritage is our heritage, and the recognition of the Cape Floristic Region as world class not only underlines our responsibility for ensuring its wise use into the future, but puts us in an excellent position to expand responsible tourism and generate much needed employment throughout the region", said Marthinus van Schalkwyk, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

Having hinted at this announcement during World Environment Week earlier this month, van Schalkwyk expressed "his delight and that of all South Africans at this recognition that the natural and cultural diversity of South Africa had been highlighted by the international community".

The announcement of World Heritage Status was welcomed across the region.

MEC Ms Tasneem Essop emphasized the need to re-connect people with their environment. "The listing of the Cape Floristic Region as a World Heritage Site once again highlights the disparities among people of the region. Within sight of areas that the world proclaims of universal significance to humanity, are communities who struggle to make a living. There is a need to tear down the physical and psychological hedge that excludes most South Africans from the values and benefits of protected areas," she said.

In the Eastern Cape, MEC Andre de Wet remarked that this new status "will significantly advance the programme to consolidate and expand the Baviaanskloof, while opening up tourism opportunities and addressing the question of poverty in the Kloof and surrounding areas".
Adnaan Abrahams of the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board emphasized the need to use the opportunity to seek further investment in revenue-generation and job-creation.

"This listing emphasizes the special significance of our indigenous flora" said Brian Huntley, CEO of the National Botanical Institute. "Only two other botanical gardens are listed, namely Padua in Italy and the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, but these are listed as cultural sites", he said.

A portion of the funds recently awarded to South Africa by the Global Environment Facility will be used to ensure the integrity of the new World Heritage Sites and to strengthen the institutions that manage them. "But this will not be enough unless people from all walks of life are closely involved in both the management and development of the opportunities that the sites promise" said Trevor Sandwith, Co-ordinator of the C.A.P.E. programme.

"The C.A.P.E. programme is designed to implement a range of enabling activities to support institutional strengthening and ensure greater public awareness. At the same time it will support the development of the 'biodiversity economy' by investing in better planning, management and development of the protected areas, including the new World Heritage Sites", he added.

"This recognition has been long in coming," said Brett Myrdal, Park Manager for the Table Mountain National Park. "We have to thank those who had the foresight to expand the nomination to include areas representative of the entire Cape Floristic Region, the only plant kingdom contained entirely within one country."

"We will plan a celebration on Table Mountain on Heritage Day in September, bringing together youth from throughout the region," he said.

Issued by: Trevor Sandwith, C.A.P.E. Co-ordinator
A FIRST FOR KIRSTENBOSCH

Cape Floral Region wins the status of World Heritage Site

MELANIE GOSSLING
Environment Writer

HAVING the Cape Floral Region declared a World Heritage Site was as good as winning the bid to host the soccer World Cup, MEC for Environment and Planning Tasneem Essop said yesterday.

"I'm extremely excited by this. It is not getting as much popular attention as winning the right to host the World Cup, but it's almost in that league and should be celebrated by all South Africans. The benefits will accrue to all, especially the communities around the protected areas," Essop said.

The Cape Floral Region was declared a World Heritage Site in China on Wednesday where the UN's World Heritage Committee is holding its annual meeting. The region was described as one of "outstanding universal significance to humanity", which, apart from its exceptional beauty, was one of the richest areas of plant species in the world.

Andre de Wet, MEC for environment and planning in the Eastern Cape, said yesterday the declaration would enable the province to consolidate Bavianskloof.

There was still a lot of private land in Bavianskloof that the province wanted to buy.

The heritage site is made up of eight protected areas: considered to be the most important examples of the Cape Floral Region. They are Table Mountain, De Hoop Nature Reserve, the Bokbaai Mountain complex, the Groot Winterhoek wilderness area, the Swartberg mountains, Bosmansbos wilderness area, the Cedarberg Wilderness area and Bavianskloof, which straddles the Western and Eastern Cape boundary.

Environment Minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk said in a statement "This is another fantastic achievement for South Africa, with great significance for our role as global leaders in responsible tourism and sustainable environmental management. It underlines our responsibility to ensure the wise use of resources like the Cape Floral Regions. It also places us in an excellent position to expand responsible tourism and generates much-needed employment."

Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens on the slopes of Table Mountain is included in the site, the first time a botanical garden has been included in a natural heritage site.

Trevor Sandwith, co-founder of Cape Action Plan People and the Environ said the declaration marked a high point in the development of the Cape Floral Region. "The Global Environment Facility has invested R300 million to assist South Africa in conserving the region. It only in spending this wo..."
Nina Marshall

From: Karoline Hanks [karoline@ahmedia.co.za]
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2002 9:57 AM
Subject: C.A.P.E. e-news

How to apply to the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)

For a comprehensive list of frequently asked questions about CEPF, click here

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a joint initiative of Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank. It aims to dramatically advance conservation of Earth’s biologically richest and most threatened areas, which are known as biodiversity hotspots.

The CEPF provides funding and technical assistance to civil society groups, such as NGOs, community groups and private sector partners. It acts as a catalyst to create strategic working alliances among diverse groups, combining unique capacities and eliminating the duplication of efforts for a comprehensive, coordinated approach to conservation challenges.

Click here to access the off-line CEPF application form. If you are having difficulties completing the application form, please contact C.A.P.E. at info@capeaction.org.za

NEW INTERACTIVE MAP ON THE WEB:

The C.A.P.E. website now features a new interactive map - an exciting and dynamic component with links from a CFK map to all C.A.P.E. affiliated project sites, with photos, information and contact details for each project. Please visit the site and send us your comments and suggestions.

C.A.P.E. prepares for GEF funding

The Global Environment Facility has made US $320 million available to enable the C.A.P.E. programme to develop an investment programme for presentation to the GEF Council in May 2003. This requires a very focused period of preparatory activity during the period September 2002 - January 2003.

A number of workshops have already been held and a series of workshops will continue well into January 2003 to enable the C.A.P.E. programme to be developed and presented to the Council. The workshops are based on various components, as listed below:

- Component 1: Marine/Coastal
- Component 2: Freshwater/Catchments
- Component 3: Lowland conservation
- Component 4: Protected areas
- Component 5: Land-use planning (bioregional planning)
- Component 6: Institutional strengthening/Capacity Building
- Component 7: Environmental Education/participatory approach
- Component 8: Monitoring and evaluation systems
- Component 9: Conservation Livelihoods
- Component 10: Programme management

The following reports and workshop outcomes are available to download:

- Lowlands report
- Lowlands workshop summary
- Estuaries report
- Land-use decision report
- Freshwater progress/gap report
- Freshwater logframe
- Freshwater workshop summary
- Freshwater: Landuse report
- Freshwater: Alien species report
- Freshwater: Water use report
- Protected Area strategy report
- Marine and coastal report
- Programme management

Click here for the GEF preparation schedule of workshops.

We encourage your input and comments on the above or reports. Please send them to: info@capeaction.org.za
WESTERN CAPE NATURE CONSERVATION BOARD

(Trading as CapeNature)

DATE: October 2004
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Section 1:

1. Executive Summary

Who are we?

The Gouritz Initiative (GI) originated from a global hotspots programme, where 27 biodiversity hotspots were identified. Three of these hotspots fall within the GI domain. These hotspots are the following biomes with the accompanying biodiversity initiatives:

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<th>Thicket</th>
<th>STEP</th>
<th>Subtropical Thicket Ecosystem Programme</th>
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Biodiversity hotspots are important because at least 1 500 species per biome are endemic to that biome, and therefore unique to the region. In addition, 70% of the hotspot has been transformed in some way or another by human activities (i.e. urban development, agriculture, tourism etc.) The ultimate aim of the stakeholders in the GI is to conserve the remaining biodiversity hub in such a way that they take ownership of the sustainable utilization of the unique biodiversity of the area by ensuring global recognition through partnerships, continuous awareness and responsible decision making for the benefit of all people now and in the future.

The GI is thus an agreed upon entity that represents the interests of all its peoples, sectors and institutions in a concerted effort to establish a landscape wide (“mega park”) biodiversity conservation corridor that provides essential ecological services, sustainable livelihoods and a healthy society. It therefore embraces combined strategies and alignment between C.A.P.E, Conservation International (CI), SKEP, and the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board (WCNCB) in order to optimise inputs in the region.

Where are we?

The approximate boundaries of the GI domain were determined via expert workshops with scientists (aquatic, terrestrial, and archeological) as well as workshops with socio-economic sectors (agriculture, tourism, local government, non governmental organizations (NGOs)). A biophysical spatial tool, a Geographical Information System (GIS) tool was developed as a result of these workshops. This tool now superimposes or highlights together all the relevant issues of the GI domain in order to help decision makers to identify focus areas, projects and priority biodiversity features.
The GI domain has roughly been divided into 5 unique management sectors (see map.) These sectors represent whole landscapes with associated structures and activities that are characteristic of the region.

What do we do with this information?

This information has already been used and can be used to identify important new projects in the region and to aid as motivation for receiving relevant funding and investment for these and other projects. This information is being used to inform the process of establishing ecological corridors and incorporating priority landholdings into the conservation estate through the Stewardship program of WCNCB. The government agencies and local authorities that evaluate development applications also use this information to make more informed decisions regarding such applications.

The strength of the GI lies in its people that participate in its projects and positively contribute to the planning and commencement of the process through their respective bodies of knowledge (science, conservation, agriculture and socio-economy). The GI strategic business plan will bring about a living landscape in which people and nature co-exist in a way that allows the unique biodiversity of the area to flourish naturally.

We will achieve this by way of establishing a region for biodiversity conservation, biodiversity friendly land use practices and the alleviation of threats as well as sustainable use of natural resources and equitable sharing of the benefits derived.

The way forward

Living in an area where there is a convergence of three internationally recognised biodiversity hotspots is a great privilege. However with the knowledge that these biomes are threatened comes the responsibility of
the inhabitants of this region to ensure that no further degradation and loss of biodiversity occurs. The GI aims to ensure the co-ordination of conservation activities that are taking place in the Gouritz river corridor and the Central Little Karoo. It is essential that landowners and land users of this area take responsibility for correct management and utilisation of valuable resources in this amazing region.

2. GI Overview

The Gouritz Initiative facilitates, promotes and capacitates partnerships that specialise in:

- The conservation of biodiversity,
- The sustainable use of its components, and
- The fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic, geomorphologic, human and intellectual resources.

2.1 Background

The identification of the fynbos, succulent karoo and subtropical thicket biomes as global biodiversity hotspots has given the GI domain international focus and attention. Each of the conservation projects, (CAPE, SKEP and STEP), which have been undertaken has repeatedly highlighted the importance of the Little Karoo and adjacent areas (i.e. the GI) for conservation. In fact, the GI is a hotspot of hotspots!

The C.A.P.E. (Cape Action for People and the Environment) Project identified the establishment of the Little Karoo Mega Conservation Area (now the Gouritz Initiative) as a priority to conserve pattern and ecological and evolutionary processes (Cowling et al. 1999). During the SKEP (Succulent Karoo Ecosystem Plan) project, the Little Karoo was distinguished as one of the nine priority areas for conservation of the Succulent Karoo (Frazee 2003). Similarly, the STEP (Subtropical Thicket Ecosystem Planning) Project has also emphasised the need to establish a Gouritz-Little Karoo Mega Conservancy Network more or less along the Gouritz River corridor for the conservation of critical parts of the subtropical thicket biome (Cowling et al. 2003).

In order to adequately provide for the conservation of ecological and evolutionary patterns and processes within the Cape Floristic Kingdom, the C.A.P.E. strategy calls for intervention at a landscape level. Based on a systematic conservation planning process, C.A.P.E. has mapped the CFK’s (Cape Floristic Kingdom’s) conservation targets and priorities. Three priority regions have been targeted for implementing landscape wide conservation initiatives. These are the Baviaanskloof in the Eastern Cape, and the Gouritz and Cedarberg in the Western Cape. C.A.P.E. proposed that ‘mega-reserves’ be established in these target regions.
The Black Harrier Project (BHP) forms part of the Western Cape Raptor Research Programme, based at the FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town. The key members of the BHP team are Andrew Jenkins (manager), Odette Curtis (assistant manager and MSc student), and Rob Simmons (harrier guru and scientific advisor). The project began in 2000 as a study of the biology of this little-known, rare and endemic species, and was largely funded by the Cape Bird Club and the Fitztitute. It has since grown into a broader-based assessment of (i) the conservation needs of the Black Harrier, (ii) the utility of the harrier as a flagship for conservation efforts in the Fynbos biome, and (iii) the ecological link between harriers and threatened lowland fynbos and renosterveld habitats. The BHP is part of the C.A.P.E. initiative and is funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund. The project places heavy emphasis on the involvement of landowners, conservators and nature lovers in the study and conservation of Black Harriers and their habitats. This is the first issue of Circus, the project newsletter, which will be produced twice-yearly and distributed to everyone involved with or interested in the project. Circus is the scientific name given to the group (or genus) of harrier species.

The early days...
To bring you up to speed with the initial stages of the project, we suggest that you read at least one of the following publications:


If you are unable to source copies of these articles, please contact the BHP team and we will send them to you. Note that the Birds & Birding article is available in pdf format on the research programme website: http://web.uct.ac.za/depts/fitzpatrick/docs/raptor.html

Progress and events in 2003/2004
This was the first year of CEPF funding for the project, which required us to expand our research horizons somewhat, and contextualize our harrier interests into the broader conservation issues of the Cape Floral Region (CFR). The ultimate objective or purpose of the ‘new’ BHP is scripted...
in our funding proposal as ‘… to improve the conservation status of the Black Harrier and threatened lowland habitats by raising general awareness of key environmental issues in the CFR, generating real understanding of these issues through scientific research, and building capacity to sustain this initiative by formal education, and by involving and informing relevant elements of civil society.’

To this end, during the course of 2003/2004 we started to shift our emphasis from harriers alone to harriers and habitats, and started to share our new-found ideas about Black Harriers and their role in the Fynbos environment with other biologists and conservationists, farmers, nature conservancies and the general public. Our awareness campaign included the development of a BHP pamphlet promoting the harrier as an icon of Cape Conservation, landing a slot on the SABC TV nature series 50/50, writing a number of short articles in national and local print media (including Farmers’ Weekly), giving talks on the project to a variety of conservancy groups, bird clubs and scientific gatherings (including the Fynbos Forum). We also forged productive links with many of the landowners and nature conservators on whose land we worked, and encouraged their involvement in the project, in whatever capacity.

While developing this outreach programme, we also expanded the formal research component of the project. Odette Curtis started collecting data for her MSc project, which will look specifically at the association between harriers and lowland habitats. In 2003 she searched for breeding or foraging harriers in about 50 fragments of lowland fynbos or renosterveld, mostly in the Overberg region, but found only two nest sites in these remnant patches, both of which were located in relatively large, pristine fragments. These preliminary results are particularly important because they show that harriers can and do breed in healthy renosterveld, but have probably been very hard hit by the extensive modification or degradation of this habitat by the spread of agriculture. Odette also made a concerted effort to study harrier foraging ecology using radio telemetry, with limited success. She plans successful studies for this year. Zoology Honours student Kath Potgieter was seconded to the project to study the effects of habitat transformation on the harriers’ rodent prey base. She found that infestation by alien vegetation and heavy grazing both have a detrimental impact on small mammal diversity and abundance.

We also continued our annual nest survey and monitoring efforts in 2003. Overall, this was a relatively poor year for breeding harriers, with fewer breeding pairs in our focal study areas and lower breeding success throughout. For example, only 6 of 11 nests in the West Coast
National Park were active, and some failed - unusual for this, the richest and most productive of our study sites. One highlight of the field season was our first confirmed record of Black Harrier breeding on the Cape Peninsula – Rob Simmons located a nest with eggs in the southern section of the Table Mountain National Park.

**Breeding season summary: 2003**

The 2003 Black Harrier season was good for the Black Harrier team but less successful for the harriers themselves. We established new contacts across the Overberg, the West Coast NP, and Bontebok NP, initiated our radio-tracking study and assessed the status of harriers in remaining renosterveld patches.

The harriers were less successful apparently because of a cold, dry spring which set back their breeding and prevented most birds in the northern regions from breeding. While 51 nests were active in the 2002 season only 14 of 68 sites were active in 2003. None were found in traditional sites such as Namaqua NP or Niewoudtville (where flowers were also lacking). Those that laid eggs did so mainly in September - very late compared with 2002, when a third of the birds had begun by July - a full 2 months earlier. The number of eggs laid was also lower at 3.2 per nest (vs. 3.4 last year). Fledging success - the number of young per active nest - was also reduced to 2.4 young/nest, down from 2.7 last year. Seventeen percent of eggs laid failed to hatch.

If rains and temperature allow we expect the upcoming (2004) season to be much more productive, with more nests and a greater number of young fledged.

**Highlights of the 2003/2004 harrier season**

- First record of harriers breeding in unprotected lowland renosterveld
- First record of harriers breeding on the Cape Peninsula
- Confirmation that breeding in Namaqualand is heavily dependent on rainfall

**Schedule for 2004/2005**

We are now approaching the 2004 harrier breeding season, and we have a number of work schedules in place that we hope will bring us closer to achieving our objectives. Odette will continue with both her lowland fragment surveys and her radio telemetry work. We have also selected a sample of large lowland habitat fragments, and will search for harriers in each of these, and in all the significant areas of conserved lowland habitats across the entire CFR. In this way we can examine the possibility that harriers are confined to only the larger, more ecologically intact fragments of renosterveld or lowland fynbos.

This year, in the interests of efficiency, we will split the study area between the three principal team members - Rob will do all the survey and monitoring work, as well as the extension work and talks, in the Swartland region (essentially from Malmesbury northwards, including study...
areas in the Bokkeveld and Namaqualand), Andrew will cover the central region (south and east of Malmesbury to Gansbaai), and Odette will work in the Overberg region (east of Gansbaai). As well as continuing to publicise the project, we will also be trying to build capacity within each of our designated regions, particularly by refining the survey and monitoring skills of landowners and nature conservators, so that they can take over these roles in their respective areas in 2005. In this way we hope to build a network of harrier monitors across the CFR by the completion of the project.

Where do you come in?

We have enclosed a BHP pamphlet and a questionnaire with this newsletter. Please contact us if you would like more pamphlets to distribute. Please complete the questionnaire if you would like to participate in the project in any way at all, even if it’s only to distribute pamphlets or otherwise spread the word to other members of your community.

We’d like to thank the following people for their contributions to the BHP in 2003: Andre Beukes (Rondeberg), Dan & Graham Bull, Guy Brooke-Summer, Godfrey Coetzee, Michael Daiber, Mick & June D’alton, Carrots Doyle, Thys De Villiers, Mark Duckitt, Mike Ford (Hermanus Bird Club), Gert Greeff (Koeberg Nature Reserve), Mike Gregor (Elandsberg), Nelly Grootendorst & Paul Gratton (Bontebok NP), Martin Halvorsen, Roelof Jalving, Nikki Hess (De Mond Nature Reserve), Binks Mackenzie & Janice Maltby (honorary rangers WCNP), Chris & Judy New, Matthew Norval, Danie Pretorius (Jakkalsfontein Private Nature Reserve), Wessels Pretorius (Niewoudtvile), Koos Steenkamp & Nicolaas Hannekom (Riverlands Nature Reserve), Wessel Wessels, and Andre Roussow (Namaqua NP), Neil MacGregor, Wilhem van Wyk and Kate Webster (E Cape) as well as all the landowners whose land we surveyed on. We hope that you will all continue your involvement in the project in 2004 and beyond. For permits to access protected areas we thank Dr Rod Randall, and H. Buizendenhout (SANParks), Gary de Kock (WCNP), and the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board.

Should you have any further queries about any aspect of this project, or any suggestions, please contact us at the following e-mail addresses or phone numbers:

**Dr Andrew Jenkins** (general matters, central region)
E-mail ajenkins@botzoo.uct.ac.za
Tel. +21 650 4124, 082 959 9238

**Odette Curtis** (Overberg region)
E-mail ocurtis@botzoo.uct.ac.za
Tel. +21 650 4124, 083 551 3341

**Dr Rob Simmons** (Swartland region, Bokkeveld and Namaqualand)
E-mail harrier@botzoo.uct.ac.za
Tel. +21 650 3310
COUNTDOWN TO PROJECT END

The Biodiversity Conservation Unit’s involvement with the St Francis Conservancy is rapidly coming to an end - there are only nine months left of the project. With this in mind, it is important that landowners begin to take over responsibility for the Conservancy.

The two-year project should really be seen as the first phase in the development of the Conservancy, which is a long-term endeavour. It may take twenty years or more for the Conservancy to mature and reach its full potential. It is important that landowners, and other stakeholders, appreciate this and set aside any ‘instant-gratification’ mindsets through this realisation.

Also, it is important that landowners realise that the returns they receive from their involvement in the Conservancy are proportional to the effort that they invest in it. External assistance, such as that provided by the Biodiversity Conservation Unit (BCU), may provide the impetus for development of such initiatives, but it also has some big drawbacks. Such an external presence may inadvertently result in more passive involvement from the direct stakeholders (i.e. the landowners themselves). The perception from these stakeholders may be that the job is already being done by outsiders, so there is no need to do anything. Considering the finite nature of the BCU’s involvement in the Conservancy, this perception is far from accurate.

With this said, the BCU would like to commend those landowners, and other stakeholders, who have shown commitment to the Conservancy. The following individuals deserve a special mention: Elizabeth & Peter Rautenbach, Tess & Ryszard Strzelecki, Charles Charlewood, Derek & Brent Cook, Renée van Rooyen, Anton Bok, Warwick Sauer, Bart & Caryl Logie & the Fourcade Botanical Group, Tilla Raimondo & the CREW team, Sandra Hardie, Gert Greeff, Francois Maritz, Wrex Tarr, Des Green, Herman Stofberg, Jimmy Haupt, Lorraine Egan, Gerrie Ferreira, Hennie de Beer, Panie de Ridder, Manie du Toit, Jan Rigaard, Cas Terblanche, Daniel Reinecke, Val Enzer, Dave Bowmer, Richard & Shirley Cowling, and Jennifer Gouza.

WEEVILS RELEASED

Biological control is considered the most promising innovation in the long-term control of alien species. The Plant Protection Research Institute has assisted in the fight against rooikrans on the Conservancy by the provision of 1 100 seed-eating weevils. The weevils arrived via Speedmail on 13 October and were released at five locations on the Conservancy. We hope that this weevil will flourish, and significantly reduce the cost of follow-up clearing operations (it will reduce the number of new plants that come up after a fire or clearing operations).

EASTERN CAPE CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION

The Biodiversity Conservation Unit is facilitating the development of an Eastern Cape Conservancy Association. The St Francis Conservancy will be a founding member of this association.

This association will be a voluntary body made up of various conservancies and private reserves, and will initially focus on (but not be limited to) the western section of the Eastern Cape. The association will be linked to the National Association of Conservancies of SA (NACSA) and will provide a voice for private conservators in the Eastern Cape.
There are many reasons for the establishment of this body – it can:
- create a channel to lobby for private landowner conservation issues at a provincial and national level
- increase communication and co-ordination between conservancies and other private landowner conservation initiatives
- increase motivation through the creation of a peer group of private conservators
- play a mentorship and guidance role for fledgling initiatives

A meeting will be convened in Port Elizabeth in early November to discuss this concept.

WORKING FOR WATER ASSISTANCE

The Conservancy has been invited to submit a business plan to Working for Water (WfW) for the clearing of alien plants on the Conservancy.

Although not guaranteed, the Conservancy is a good candidate for assistance from the WfW Programme because:
- it is in a biodiversity priority area
- landowners have organised themselves into an easy-to-work-with institution (i.e. the Conservancy)
- it is undertaking strategic planning for alien eradication
- large areas have been cleared of alien plants by certain landowners (the Thula-moya Coastal Reserve, most notably).

It is important to note that, even with such assistance, it is still the landowners’ legal responsibility to keep their properties clear of aliens. Landowners should not expect to be completely removed of this burden. Working for Water will be expecting the landowners to contribute to any alien eradication programmes that get initiated. Additionally, Working for Water will only assist those landowners that have made a contractual commitment to conserve their properties. The Biodiversity Conservation Unit will assist the Conservancy in developing the business plan and will investigate possibilities for these contractual arrangements.

CONSERVANCY WEBSITE

The Conservancy website is hosted on the WESSA domain and can be accessed through the following link. Please note the links to the content pages on the left of your browser.

www.wessa.org.za/SFCmain.htm

For further information, please contact:
Brian Reeves
St Francis Conservancy Project
1st Floor Havilland House,
Cnr Lawrence St & Havelock St,
Central Hill,
Port Elizabeth, 6001
Tel: +27(0) 41 582 3361 / 582 3367
Fax: +27(0) 41 582 3368
Mobile +27(0) 84 400 0926
E-mail: breeves@wessa-bcu.co.za
CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP
Options for landowners

- All 3 options are voluntary
- Each option is tailored to your needs as a landowner
- None of these options mean ceding ownership rights to Cape Nature Conservation
- Existing types of protected areas (e.g. private nature reserve, natural heritage site, mountain catchment area) can be accommodated within any of these options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPTION</th>
<th>1 CONTRACT NATURE RESERVES</th>
<th>2 CO-OPERATION AGREEMENTS</th>
<th>3 CONSERVATION AREAS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WHICH OPTION APPLIES TO YOUR LAND</td>
<td>• Priority areas adjacent to statutory reserves or sufficiently large to be self-contained ecosystems.</td>
<td>• Suitable for any conservation worthy land (especially wetlands and water catchments), not excluding small and isolated fragments.</td>
<td>• Any natural land is suitable but not a good option if your land has rare or endangered habitats, unless this initial designation. is seen as part of a plan to progress to higher conservation security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POSSIBLE LAND USE LIMITATIONS</td>
<td>• No development or land use rights will be allowed, but access and residence rights are unrestricted</td>
<td>• Land must be managed in a way that will support natural processes</td>
<td>• Very few, but the area needs to retain its natural character</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BENEFITS TO THE LANDOWNER</td>
<td>• Substantial assistance with habitat management • Increased recognition and marketing exposure • We will lobby on your behalf for incentives e.g. rates rebates</td>
<td>• Specific agreements for fire, alien, plant and animal management • Advanced extension services (e.g. alien clearing planning)</td>
<td>• Advice &amp; support through basic extension services • Assistance with management plans and farm maps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Photo’s: Martin Harvey, Shawn Benjamin, Amrei von Hase, Cape Nature Conservation, Juan Pablo Moreiras/FFI
**Frequently Asked Questions about Stewardship Options**

**What are the benefits of becoming a custodian of natural habitat on your property?**

- Natural vegetation (particularly wetlands) can act like a filter and preserve the quality of drinking water that collects in dams
- Clearing alien plants and implementing firebreaks will reduce the risk of damaging fires
- Conserving vegetation on slopes will prevent soil erosion
- Your income-base can be diversified through the wise use and marketing of your natural resources (e.g. ecotourism opportunities, professional hunting)
- By becoming involved in conservation on your land, you will have access to support, advice and assistance from dedicated Cape Nature Conservation staff
- By conserving natural habitats on your property, you may be keeping certain plants and animals from extinction, while dramatically improving the survival chances of many others!

**CONTRACT NATURE RESERVES**

Q: If I sell my property, will the restrictions stipulated in the contract apply to the owner?
A: Yes, the same restrictions will apply. However, a new contract will have to be negotiated.

Q: Will I have to remove existing infrastructure from the area that becomes the contract nature reserve?
A: No, all existing infrastructure may remain.

Q: Will Cape Nature Conservation have unlimited access to my property if it becomes a Contract Nature Reserve?
A: No, but terms and conditions regarding access can be negotiated within the agreement.

Q: Can I be assured that Cape Nature Conservation can support the terms of the contract agreement in the future?
A: Yes, Cape Nature Conservation is a government agency tasked with the mandate of nature conservation throughout the province, and is committed to this long-term vision.

**CO-OPERATION AGREEMENTS**

Q: Who will bear the legal costs for drawing up a co-operation agreement?
A: This will be negotiated, but where possible, Cape Nature Conservation will facilitate reduced costs.

Q: What will the consequences be if I choose to terminate the co-operation agreement?
A: You will be liable for the total cost of Cape Nature Conservation's management interventions and assistance over the period for which the agreement was valid.

Q: Will I be able to utilise an independent arbitrator if conflict arises over the legalities of the agreement?
A: Yes, you are fully entitled to make use of such services.

**CONSERVATION AREAS**

Q: Is a conservation area applicable to an individual property, a collectively managed/multi-landowner area (e.g. conservancy), or both?
A: Both. It can apply to a single property or a group of properties, like a conservancy

Q: What do basic extension services include?
A: General advice, support and assistance, as well as input into the drafting of management plans.

Q: Will other people in the area be allowed access to my conservation area?
A: No. Specific rules and agreements can be dictated by each individual landowner.
CPU Home

The Conservation Planning Unit (CPU): Highlighting the Hotspots

Projects with maps available on our website (Note: Navigate to the "Maps" pages to view our Projects and other bio-diversity Maps.)

- Cape Action for People and the Environment (C.A.P.E.)
- Succulent Karoo Ecosystem Programme (SKEP)
- Subtropical Thicket Ecosystem Planning (STEP)
- Cape Lowlands Renosterveld
- Gouritz Initiative
- Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor (GCBC)

What is the CPU?
A unit within the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board (WCNCB) and a core Cape Action for People and the Environment (CAPE) project. Our aim is to provide access to comprehensive, high quality, up-to-date and reliable biodiversity information. The unit has been established to ensure that biodiversity maps based on data from a variety of reputable institutions are easily accessible to inform.

WHAT'S NEW?
Cape Lowlands Renosterveld and Gouritz Initiative maps now available.

If you are contributing data to the CPU please consult our data and metadata standards. Download these here.
World Bank aids conservation initiative

An international conservation body, financed by the World Bank and various partners, has thrown its weight behind efforts to conserve the Western Cape's indigenous plant and animal life through the Biodiversity and Wine Initiative (BWI), a partnership between the South African wine industry and various conservation bodies.

Unveiling the new initiative on Wednesday, Dr Johan van Rooyen, CEO of the South African Wine and Brandy Company (SAWB), said the BWI had raised 1.4 million rand towards propagating and implementing viticultural practices aimed at preventing the further eradication of the Cape Floral Kingdom - particularly the critically threatened renosterveld and lowland fynbos - over the next two years.

Some 600,000 rand was funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), an international donor made up of the World Bank, Global Environmental Fund, MacArthur Foundation, Government of Japan and Conservation International. The CEPF premise is that economic prosperity and biodiversity conservation are intrinsically linked.

Their investments focus on environmental projects taking place in global biodiversity hotspots - such as the 25 regions representing the greatest, yet most threatened, biodiversity on earth, of which the Cape Floral Kingdom is one.

The balance of the amount raised is made up from contributions by the Green Trust (an associate trust of WWF-SA made possible by Nedbank Green Trust), the Botanical Society of South Africa and the SAWB.

According to Van Rooyen, the contribution of international funding highlights the importance of integrating wine production and conservation practices.

"This profiles the South African wine industry in the eyes of the world in terms of its commitment to conserving the Cape Floral Kingdom (CFK)," he says.

"The funds will, however, allow the closest co-operation to date between the wine industry and conservation bodies. I am sure that the outcome will develop into an international model of how agriculture can be seamlessly integrated with the conservation of a unique and threatened environment."

The SAWB had approved the project, which consists of a number of activities including the incorporation of biodiversity guidelines into the Integrated Production of Wine (IPW) programme. Another important and visible activity, he said, would be to develop a unique biodiversity wine route.

"This could not only conserve a unique biodiversity hotspot, but could lead to the opening-up of..."
myriad marketing opportunities for South African wines and the region's tourism."

The immediate priorities of the BWI include co-ordinating information workshops, bringing wine grape growers up to speed with the initiative and its future plans and goals, as well as communicating its benefits to industry bodies involved in marketing South African wines internationally. An office for the BWI has also been set up in Stellenbosch.

The BWI is part of Cape Action for People and the Environment (CAPE), a 20-year strategy to conserve the biodiversity of the CFK while delivering significant economic benefits to the people of the region. A core objective is to promote and initiate private sector and community involvement in conserving the threatened landscapes of the CFK.

"In the CFK, some 96% of the original extent of renosterveld and 49% of the fynbos has been converted to agricultural use," Tony Hansen, project co-ordinator revealed. "It is projected that 15-30% of the remaining habitat will be converted to agriculture in the next 20 years. In addition to this, the remaining habitat is also severely threatened by urban development, alien plant infestation and frequent fires."

According to Hansen, approximately 80% of the land in the CFK is in private hands.

"This makes partnerships with industry critical to conserving biodiversity," he says. "An important lesson for the conservation sector is that industry will not engage with the conservation initiatives unless a win-win approach is adopted i.e. benefits for industry and benefits for conservation.

"The BWI is a good example of this approach, with tangible benefits to both the wine industry and the conservation sector. The wine industry benefits by using the region's biodiversity as a unique selling point for South African wines and through sustainable resource management in complying with the agricultural and environmental laws. The conservation sector benefits by pioneering biodiversity best practices with industry which results in conserving South Africa's unique natural heritage for future generations," he concluded.

*I-Net Bridge*
Battle plan: initiative aims to encourage farmers to conserve biodiversity

Room for the vine and fynbos to live side by side

DOUGLAS CAREW

The Western Cape has an estimated 96,000 hectares under vine and conservationists and wine producers are working together to prevent the spread of vineyards from choking the Cape Floral Kingdom.

The Biodiversity and Wine Initiative was formed by the South African wine industry and Western Cape and international conservation bodies. It aims to prevent the potential destruction of the province's threatened lowland fynbos and Renosterveld by the proliferation of vineyards in ecologically sensitive areas.

Tony Hansen, a former thrill-seeker involved in running outdoor adventure sports across the world, is coordinating the process of setting up a 20-year plan to save the biodiversity of the Cape Floral Kingdom.

Hansen, whose qualifications are in information technology and economics, said there had been a fundamental change in the thinking of many environmentalists.

Before, the focus had been on setting up fenced-off state-owned reserves, but the realisation that most threatened areas were in private hands had forced conservationists to negotiate with industry and set up partnerships to manage properties with sensitive ecosystems and threatened species.

Bodies involved in the initiative include The Botanical Society of South Africa, Conservation International, the Centre for Environmental Leadership in Business, Cape Action for People and the Environment, the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board and Stellenbosch University's Centre for Agricultural Biodiversity.

Hansen said the plan was to identify and conserve areas of healthy indigenous vegetation not yet under vine by:

- Setting aside natural habitat in contractually protected areas. Farmers would enter into "stewardship" agreements with Cape Nature Conservation to protect endangered vegetation on their properties. Benefits to the landowner included property rate rebates.
- Identifying biodiversity "champions" to act as role models. Neighbouring farmers in the Bottelary area near Kuit River had set up a Renosterveld conservancy and they were already "champions" who would help "to spread the news"; and
- Bringing about changes in farming practices to enhance the suitability of vineyards as habitats for biodiversity.

Biodiversity guidelines have been incorporated into the industry's Integrated Production of Wine guidelines. These include what types of sprays to use for pest control, clearing of alien vegetation which kills indigenous species and planting corridors of indigenous vegetation which attract various insects and birds which feed on pests threatening vineyards.

The initiative also aims to set up a biodiversity wine route where visitors will be exposed to both the wine and the ecotourism experience of participating producers.

Wine farms could create walks in the renosterveld lead by trained guides drawn from local people.

"The Western Cape has the only wine growing area in a World Heritage Site. It has scenery and a biodiversity of species that is substantially more significant and breathtaking than any other wine producing area, but to date we have not done enough to promote that."

Wines produced by environmentally sensitive estates are also increasingly attractive in foreign markets which means wine producers have a financial incentive to run environmentally sensitive businesses.

But Hansen has been impressed by a genuine commitment from farmers to restore and protect the indigenous environment. "Already about 300 producers have come forward voluntarily to become involved. They want to do the right thing, but they don't always know what that is."

He hoped other industries would follow the wine industry's example. "We will start with the high-profile wine industry and then take it to the ostrich farmers, cut flower producers and other industries, then we will start to win the battle to maintain biodiversity."
Working for a greener future for all...

Alicia Williams

When Tumeka Mdlazi, 27, moved from the rural Eastern Cape to Cape Town in 1996, its beauty overwhelmed her but she was so shocked to see city dwellers living in such poverty that she decided to do something to uplift them.

Tumeka, who was surrounded by breathtaking scenery as a child, joined several environmental organisations to assist the communities of Nyanga and Khayelitsha in efforts to improve their living conditions.

One of these organisations is Cape Flats Nature, which manages the Wolfgat Nature Reserve on the outskirts of Mitchells Plain and Khayelitsha.

Since joining Cape Flats Nature, Tumeka has spent long hours educating communities in Nyanga and Khayelitsha about the importance of preserving the environment.

In January this year, she registered at Cape Technikon and started her first year in nature conservation.

Her studies are funded by the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) through the Table Mountain Fund's capacity-building programme.

"Moving from a rural area to the city, I found Cape Town to be an eyes opener. The environmental and social differences made me see the advantage and privilege of growing up in a village."

"The value, not only of human relationships but also of the interaction between people in rural areas and the natural elements, struck me forcibly."

"What I saw in Nyanga and Khayelitsha came as a shock to me. The shacks are so densely packed in certain sections and the entire area is set in dry grey sand with no greenery," she said.

Tumeka's fond memories of experiencing nature during her childhood days in the Eastern Cape inspire her to create the same opportunities for children on the Cape Flats.

She believes, however, that these opportunities can only be created if the environment is preserved for future generations.

"As a family, we used to make a fire in the evenings and share stories.

The shacks are so densely packed... and there is no greenery"

"One of the most popular stories was a story of a monitor lizard (imbulu) and a girl.

"I grew up not knowing what a monitor lizard looked like. I imagined it was a monkey-like animal until I went on an expedition along a wilderness trail at the Umfolozi Game Reserve in KwaZulu Natal."

"This was a revelation to me. I was so excited and amused to see something I was not expecting to see.

"If only all our children could get the same experience and be given an opportunity to see different animals."

"I believe that can only happen if we protect the precious eco-systems that we have. If not, future generations will be forced to learn about nature in theory only or by means of stories and never actually see what they are learning about," she said.

Tumeka said she is grateful for the financial support she receives from the WWF.

"It enables me to study nature conservation. This will build my capabilities and strengthen my resolve in helping to revive the green spirit within the communities like Khayelitsha," she said.

Tumeka is confident that people living in communities such as Khayelitsha, Nyanga and Mitchells Plain will preserve the environment.

"I believe that people will bring about the necessary changes and improve the conditions in their areas. They just need to be encouraged and motivated. People's interest in greening programmes indicates that they want to be part of the environment."

"It means conservationists and environmentalists are not bringing what is new. The inner knowledge and appreciation is there, but there are factors that discourage people from taking care of their environment."

"These factors include poverty and the fact that the soil is so poor and the weather so strong that virtually nothing can be planted."

"One has to spend a lot of time trying to change barren sand into fertile soil. My dream is that there must be a better environment for all," she said.

Tumeka said she will continue working with environmental organisations like Cape Flats Nature and the Community Networking Forum when she completes her studies.

She also wants to assist and form organisations that will focus on conservation, work with schools and assist learners and teachers in forming eco-groups or clubs.

"I would like to stimulate discussions, organise workshops and programmes on conservation."

"Ultimately, I want to encourage people to take responsibility for protected areas that are within or adjoining their communities, like the Wolfgat Nature Reserve and Macassar Dunes," she said.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>CEPF Grant</th>
<th>Co-Financing</th>
<th>Project/Regional Leveraging</th>
<th>Leveraging Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CEPF:</strong> Baviaans Conservancy <strong>Co-Financing:</strong> Baviaans Conservancy members ($28 800 in kind), Terrestrial Ecology Research Unit ($7 933 in kind), Baviaanskloof Project Management Unit ($4 000 in kind)</td>
<td>Baviaans Conservancy: Feasibility Study to Investigate the Conversion of Land Use from Small Stock Farming to Sustainable Biodiversity-Based Ventures</td>
<td>$37,300</td>
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<td><strong>CEPF:</strong> Botanical Society of South Africa <strong>Co-Financing:</strong> Botanical Society of South Africa</td>
<td>Putting Biodiversity Plans to Work</td>
<td>$206,342</td>
<td>$15,231</td>
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<td><strong>CEPF:</strong> Botanical Society of South Africa <strong>Co-Financing:</strong> Botanical Society of South Africa ($13,400), WCNCB ($53,500)</td>
<td>Partnerships, Cooperative Management and Incentives to Secure Biodiversity Conservation in Priority Areas in the Cape Floristic Region</td>
<td>$251,963</td>
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<td><strong>CEPF:</strong> Conservation International-Southern Africa Hotspots Program <strong>Co-Financing:</strong> Conservation International, Center for Environmental Leadership in Business</td>
<td>Facilitating Implementation in the Priority Mega-Reserves and Lowland Corridors in the CFR</td>
<td>$348,153</td>
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<td><strong>CEPF:</strong> Friends of Die Oog <strong>Co-Financing:</strong> Rowland and Leta Hill Trust ($2,730*), Cape Town City Council ($3,623*)</td>
<td>Die Oog Rehabilitation and Improvement Project</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>$6,353</td>
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<td><strong>CEPF:</strong> Friends of Tokai Forest <strong>Co-Financing:</strong> Working for Wetlands ($4,000), Friends of Tokai Forest ($2,000)</td>
<td>Promoting Public Participation in Caring for Tokai’s Core Cape Flats Flora Conservation Site</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
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<td><strong>CEPF:</strong> National Botanical Institute <strong>Co-Financing:</strong> Western Cape Nature Conservation Board, SANBI (Infrastructure)</td>
<td>C.A.P.E. Coordination Unit</td>
<td>$582,883</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
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<td><strong>CEPF:</strong> National Botanical Institute <strong>Co-Financing:</strong> SANBI</td>
<td>C.A.P.E. Threatened Plants Program</td>
<td>$312,359</td>
<td>$70,000</td>
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<td>CEFPI: National Botanical Institute Co-Financing: TMF and City of Cape Town ($145,000*), SANBI ($72,400*), Botanical Society ($10,145*),</td>
<td>Mainstreaming Biodiversity on the Cape Flats: Building Good Practice in Sustainable Management</td>
<td>$375,000</td>
<td>$227,545</td>
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<td>CEFPI: Rawsonville Wine &amp; Tourism Co-Financing: Rawsonville Wine &amp; Tourism</td>
<td>Botanical Assessment and Hotspot Identification for the Slanghoek Valley, Western Cape Province, South Africa</td>
<td>$7,844</td>
<td>$95,600</td>
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<td>CEFPI: The South African Wine &amp; Brandy Company Co-Financing: Green Trust and WWF South Africa ($50,000), The South African Wine Industry ($62,000), The Botanical Society of South Africa ($18,500)</td>
<td>The Biodiversity &amp; Wine Initiative</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$130,500</td>
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<td>CEFPI: University of Stellenbosch Co-Financing: NRF*</td>
<td>Effective Conservation Of Amphibians And Reptiles in the Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor</td>
<td>$69,435</td>
<td>$47,825</td>
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<td>CEFPI: Western Cape Nature Conservation Board Co-Financing: WCNCB</td>
<td>Highlighting the Hotspots: Curating, Using and Sharing the C.A.P.E. Findings and Other Biodiversity Data in Support of Bioregional Planning and Land-Use Decisionmaking</td>
<td>$203,070</td>
<td>$95,000</td>
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<td>CEFPI: Western Cape Nature Conservation Board Co-Financing: WCNCB ($87,308), DBSA ($14,888)</td>
<td>Development of a Strategic Management and Business Plan to Ratify the Objectives of the Gouritz Megapark Conservation Corridor</td>
<td>$140,247</td>
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<td>CEFPI: Western Cape Nature Conservation Board Co-Financing: GEF</td>
<td>The Cederberg Mega-Reserve Project Management Unit: Setting the Stage for Conservation in the Cederberg Mega-Reserve, South Africa</td>
<td>$129,179</td>
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<td>CEFPI: Wilderness Foundation Co-Financing: DEAET ($231,000*), GCF ($250,000), ECPB/DEAET ($434,782*), WWF ($13,000*), ESRI ($7,245*), Avis ($10,430*), Batuleurs ($4,340*) Project/Regional Leveraging: GEF</td>
<td>Baviaanskloof Mega-Reserve Project: Mega-Reserve Vision and 5-Year Development and Management Plan</td>
<td>$301,421</td>
<td>$79,100</td>
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<td>CEPF: Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa: Eastern Province</td>
<td>The St. Francis Conservancy Project</td>
<td>$99,300</td>
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<td>CEPF: Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa: Eastern Province Region</td>
<td>Van der Kempskloof/Parsonsvei Management Plan</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$1,473,913</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,200,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,673,913</strong></td>
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*Exchange rate used was an average over the course of CEPF funding - 6.9 Rand/1 Dollar*