

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT



Organization Legal Name:	Botanical Society of South Africa
Project Title:	Implementation of Biodiversity Stewardship by the Botanical Society of South Africa in Eight Botanically Significant Sites in the Maputaland Pondoland Hotspot in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
GEM ID	59606
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Report Author and Contact Information	Isabel Johnson: johnsoni@botanicalsociety.org.za Zaitoon Rabaney: Z.Rabaney@botanicalsociety.org.za

CEPF Region: Maputaland – Pondoland – Albany Hotspot

Strategic Direction: 2. Conservation and land use in 22 Key Biodiversity Areas. Expand conservation areas and improve land use in key biodiversity areas through innovative approaches.

Grant Amount: \$176,793.00

Project Dates: January 2012 – October 2015

Wildlands Conservation Trust: Regional implementing organization for the CEPF investment in the MPAH. Guidance has been given by WCT with grant applications, reports, budgets and project implementation queries.

Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (Provincial Conservation Authority): A Memorandum of Agreement was signed with EKZNW designating the Botanical Society a Category 1 Partner to assist in achieving the aims of EKZNW, in particular securing high priority biodiversity land for conservation. EKZNW has provided data, eco-advice, assistance with site assessments and approval of documents.

KZN Biodiversity Stewardship Unit (EKZNW): The Unit has provided office space and facilities throughout the duration of this project. The manager and facilitators have provided support concerning the stewardship process and given assistance with vegetation and rangeland condition surveys when necessary.

Other organisations and government departments who have supported and assisted with the implementation of this project are:

Dept of Agriculture, Natural Resources Division, Cedara, KZN: It would not have been possible to accomplish rangeland condition surveys and draft management recommendations for the sites where livestock grazing takes place without the assistance and advice of members of the Division.

SANBI CREW (Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers): Volunteer members of CREW assisted with botanical surveys at a number of the Botanical Society sites including Bosch Berg, Boston View, Edgeware, Fairview, Highover, Ingwehumbe, Nomalanga, Red Desert Nature Reserve and Umgano.

The Umgano Project: The Umgano Project (funded by CEPF) gave assistance with the botanical mentoring of the Umgano field rangers by providing venues and meals and donating field guides (see Appendix XX)

University of KwaZulu-Natal, Bews Herbarium: Access to the herbarium collections was given for plant identifications throughout the project. Assistance was provided with Umgano field ranger mentoring.

Midlands Conservancy Forum (MCF): Reciprocal assistance with fieldwork, co-facilitating of Edgeware site assessment.

Botanical Society (KZN Inland Branch): Assistance with botanical work, donations of field guides and t-shirts to Umgano field ranger mentoring.

Endangered Wildlife Trust: EWT had joint input to the negotiations with the Highover site.

Birdlife: Assistance with information on bird species.

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF): Assistance with some vegetation surveys.

Conservation Impacts

Project contribution to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

CEPF ecosystem profile: http://www.ceph.net/where_we_work/regions/africa/maputaland/
“Floristically Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany is very complex, with endemic plants and areas of high diversity throughout the region. Six of South Africa’s eight terrestrial biomes and three of South Africa’s six marine bioregions occur in the hotspot. Recognizing that most species are best conserved through the protection of sites at which they occur, the profile’s creators next pinpointed key biodiversity areas—sites important for the conservation of globally threatened species, restricted-range species, biome-restricted species assemblages or congregatory species—as targets for achieving site-level conservation outcomes. The hotspot contains an eclectic mix of vegetation types with an unusually high level of endemism: one type of forest, three types of thicket, six types of bushveld and five types of grassland are endemic to the hotspot. In addition to forest and thicket, grassland is also important in this hotspot, especially as it is the most threatened and least protected of all the biome types in southern Africa. Approximately 30 percent of South Africa’s grasslands are irreversibly transformed and only 2 percent are formally conserved. For example, the endemic Pondoland coastal plateau sourveld grassland type is critically endangered and is threatened by sugar-cane production, commercial timber plantations and overgrazing (Steenkamp et al. 2004).”

The Botanical Society project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile for the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany hotspot by securing the conservation of floristically rich but poorly conserved areas. Properties with threatened vegetation types have also been secured and the conservation of this important biodiversity has been improved by management recommendations.

CEPF's niche in the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot will be to support civil society in applying innovative approaches to conservation in undercapacitated protected areas, key biodiversity areas and priority corridors, thereby enabling changes in policy and building resilience in the region's ecosystems and economy to sustain biodiversity in the long term.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal):

Securing more high value biodiversity land for conservation in the Maputaland-Pondoland hotspot area and creating more conservation awareness amongst landowners and the community.

Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

This project has thus far achieved the proclamation of two Nature Reserves in the MPAH area. Negotiations for five further Nature Reserves are in an advanced stage of progress, and the project is also contributing to improved management of vegetation in a large community area currently under negotiation for conservation by the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme Unit.

Conservation awareness has been created by making landowners and community members more conscious of the biodiversity value of their land through nurturing their interest in the plants and animals present during site assessments, rangeland and biodiversity monitoring and mentoring of field rangers and others in field techniques.

Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal):

- Approximately 18 000 hectares of land in areas of high biodiversity as identified by Conservation International in the Maputaland- Pondoland hotspot will be placed under better management for biodiversity conservation on completion of this project.
- 300 hectares of comprises critically endangered South Coast Grassland, and 1500 hectares endangered mistbelt grassland, thus contributing to the provincial conservation targets for these vegetation types.
- Increased protection, awareness and conservation of a number of critically endangered and endangered species such as wattled crane, oribi, *Encephalartos aemulans*, *Aloe gerstnerii* and *Gerbera aurantiaca*.
- Capacity building and skills transfer of knowledge and awareness of vegetation and plant species amongst landowners, community members, the Botanical Society and CREW (Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers) volunteers throughout the province of KwaZulu-Natal.

Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

Table 1 summarises progress towards the first two short-term impacts listed above.

Proclaimed Nature Reserves include:

Red Desert Nature Reserve is a site of considerable conservation significance. It is situated in the Pondoland Corridor and comprises 208 hectares of the very poorly protected, Critically Endangered, Pondoland-Ugu Sandstone Coastal Sourveld which has been almost completely transformed by sugar cane and urban development. This site contains large numbers of Pondoland endemic plant species including the largest known population of the Vulnerable *Phylica natalensis*. It is also a site of archaeological significance.



Bosch Berg Nature Reserve is in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands Key biodiversity Area (KBA) near Boston on the slopes of the Impendle Mountain range. It contains over 350 ha of Vulnerable Mooi River Highland grassland and Endangered Eastern Mistbelt Forest and is home to the Vulnerable *Brachystelma petraeum* and the Endangered Long-toed tree frog *Leptopelis xenodactylus* which, contrary to its name, is found in moist grassland.



Sites close to proclamation include:

Nomalanga, in the Greater Greytown complex KBA with large expanses of Endangered Midlands Mistbelt Grassland, Critically Endangered Wattled Crane, Endangered Oribi and a newly discovered population of the Endangered Hilton daisy (*Gerbera aurantiaca*).

Hlomo Hlomo in the Greater Ithala complex KBA with a population of Critically Endangered cycads.

Inqwehumbe (Wingfield) in the Eston complex KBA with over 250 ha of Critically Endangered KwaZulu-Natal Sandstone Sourveld and large numbers of threatened and endemic plants.

Umgano Nature Reserve in the Umzinkhulu complex KBA with large areas of Eastern Mistbelt forest with the Endangered Black Stinkwood *Ocotea bullata*, Large populations of Endangered Cape Parrots and the largest KZN population of the Vulnerable cycad *Encephalartos ghellinckii*

Highover in the Umkomaas complex with breeding pairs of Critically Endangered blue swallows, mistbelt grassland and endemic plant species.

Babanango/Emcakwini Community Trust site in Zululand is a 13000ha site with the endemic *Aloe gerstneri* and other threatened plant species. We are involved in developing better management practices for this site.

Boston View Biodiversity Agreement Site in the KZN Midlands with Critically Endangered Wattled Crane has been renegotiated with the new landowner.



Nomalanga landowner with newly discovered colony of *Gerbera aurantiaca*.



CREW and EKZNW interns assisting with rangeland condition assessments at Babanango/Emcakwini Community Trust site.

Table 1: Botanical Society conservation sites, their current status, vegetation types and contribution to provincial targets.

Vegetation type	Conservation Status	Site	Extent (ha)	Provincial target	% of provincial target	Target met
Proclaimed Nature Reserve Sites						
Pondoland-Ugu Sandstone Coastal Sourveld	Critically Endangered	Red Desert Nature Reserve	208.9	11289	1.80	No
Midlands Mistbelt Grassland	Endangered	Bosch Berg	11	125912	0.01	No
Eastern Mistbelt Forests	Endangered	Bosch Berg	51	29574	0.17	No
Mooi River Highland Grassland	Vulnerable	Bosch Berg	289	61395	0.47	No
Drakensberg Foothill Moist Grassland	Least Threatened	Bosch Berg	4	88417	0.00	No
Legal documents signed by owner - awaiting boundary survey						
Midlands Mistbelt Grassland	Endangered	Nomalanga	1158	125912	0.92	No
KZN Highland Thornveld	Least Threatened	Nomalanga	1132	115111	0.98	No
Thukela Valley Bushveld	Least Threatened	Nomalanga	458	67121	0.68	No
Final negotiations with landowner						
KwaZulu-Natal Sandstone Sourveld	Critically Endangered	Ingwehumbe	262	44918	0.58	No
Moist Coast Hinterland Grassland	Endangered	Ingwehumbe	7	109388	0.01	No
KZN Hinterland Thornveld	Vulnerable	Ingwehumbe	157	38135	0.41	No
Eastern Valley Bushveld	Least Threatened	Ingwehumbe	336	78438	0.43	No
Eastern Scarp Forests : Southern Coastal Scarp Forest	Least Threatened	Ingwehumbe	223	7010	3.18	No
Northern Zululand Sourveld	Least Threatened	Hlomo Hlomo	750	89380	0.84	No

Table 1 (continued): Botanical Society conservation sites, their current status, vegetation types and contribution to provincial targets.

Vegetation type	Conservation Status	Site	Extent (ha)	Provincial target	% of provincial target	Target met
Final negotiations awaiting land ownership clarification						
Eastern Mistbelt Forests	Endangered	Umgano	238	29574	0.81	No
Southern KwaZulu-Natal Moist Grassland	Vulnerable	Umgano	17	53320	0.03	No
Drakensberg Foothill Moist Grassland	Least Threatened	Umgano	1621.5	88417	1.83	No
Alluvial Wetlands : Temperate Alluvial Vegetation : Midland Floodplain Grasslands		Umgano	5	427	1.17	No
Biodiversity Agreement re-negotiated with new landowner						
Midlands Mistbelt Grassland	Endangered	Boston View	82	125912	0.07	No
Eastern Mistbelt Forests	Endangered	Boston View	60	29574	0.20	No
Mooi River Highland Grassland	Vulnerable	Boston View	683	61395	1.11	No
Alluvial Wetlands : Temperate Alluvial Vegetation : Midland Floodplain Grasslands	Least Threatened	BostonView	10	427	2.34	No
Development of management recommendations						
Midlands Mistbelt Grassland	Endangered	Babanango/Emcakwini	704	125912	0.56	No
Alluvial Wetlands : Subtropical Alluvial Vegetation	Endangered	Babanango/Emcakwini	6	5297	0.11	No
Zululand Lowveld	Vulnerable	Babanango/Emcakwini	5129	126524	4.05	No
Freshwater Wetlands : Subtropical Freshwater Wetlan	Vulnerable	Babanango/Emcakwini	33	3348	1.00	No
KZN Highland Thornveld	Least Threatened	Babanango/Emcakwini	279	115111	0.24	No
Northern Zululand Sourveld	Least Threatened	Babanango/Emcakwini	7443	89380	8.33	No
Negotiations ongoing						
Midlands Mistbelt Grassland	Endangered	Highover		125912	0.00	No
Eastern Valley Bushveld	Least Threatened	Highover	336	78438	0.43	No

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: (see Table 2)

- 560.44ha - Proclaimed as Nature Reserves
- 2794ha - Signed by landowner to be proclaimed as nature reserve.
- 1834ha - Awaiting signature by landowners to be proclaimed as nature reserves.
- 1882ha - Awaiting resolution of land ownership.
- 834ha - Re-negotiation of Biodiversity Agreement with new landowner.
- 13000ha - Improved conservation management through recommendations pending proclamation by the KZN Biodiversity Stewardship Programme.

Increased protection, awareness and conservation of a number of critically endangered and endangered species was achieved and a new plant species was collected

Species Conserved: (see Table 3)

- Critically Endangered: 2
- Endangered: 18
- Vulnerable: 37
- Near Threatened: 10
- Declining: 11

New plant species found and distributions recorded during this project.

New species: A new plant species was discovered found during a site assessment at the Louis Beukes Nature Reserve in Upper Pongola during a site assessment and subsequently found at Twisthoek near Luneburg in another proposed stewardship site. The new species, *Stenostelma* sp. nov. (in prep) is in the family Apocynaceae (Milkweeds). Dr. Pieter Bester of SANBI, an expert on South African Apocynaceae, is currently describing the new species.

New distribution records:

- *Gerbera aurantiaca* (Endangered) and *Aloe neilcrouchii* (Vulnerable) were recorded at Nomalanga Nature Reserve.
- *Brachystelma petraeum* (Vulnerable) was recorded from Boston View Nature Reserve.
- *Asclepias concinna* (Vulnerable) was recorded from Umgano Nature Reserve.
- *Dracosciadium italae* (Vulnerable) and *Aloe vanrooyenii* were recorded at the Babanango/Emcakwini Community Trust site during rangeland condition assessments.



Gerbera aurantiaca



Asclepias concinna

Table 2: Botsoc sites: Progress towards proclamation.

Site	Category	Extent (ha)	MPAH Key Biodiversity Area	EKZNW Working Group approval	Site Assessment	MP developed	Rangeland Condition Report	Contract signed by landowner/s	Reason	Contract signed by MEC	Site Porclaimed
Red Desert Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	209	Oribi Gorge/Mbumbazi complex, Pondoland corridor	yes	yes	yes	NA	yes	NA	yes	yes
Bosch Berg Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	352	Midlands/Boston	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	NA	yes	yes
Boston View Biodiversity Agreement	Biodiversity Agreement	834	Midlands/Boston	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	Recent change of ownership	NA	NA
Nomalanga Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	2794	Greater Greytown complex	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Boundary Survey of NR needed	no	no
Hlomo Hlomo Game Reserve	Nature Reserve	803	Greater Ithala complex	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	Signature required	no	no
Ingwehumbe Nature Reserve (Wingfield)	Nature Reserve	1031	Eston complex	yes	yes	in draft	NA	no	Land claim degazetted	no	no
Umgano Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	1500	Umzimkhulu complex	yes	yes	in draft	yes	no	Land ownership unresolved	no	no
Highover Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve/Protected Environment	800	Umkomaas	yes	yes	no	yes	no	Commitment uncertain	no	no
Babanango/Emcakwini Community Trust Area	Nature Reserve/Protected Environment	13000	Opate/Imfolozi link	yes	yes	no	in draft	no	BSP neg	no	no
Total hectares		21322									
Sites on hold											
Fairview	Nature Reserve	60	KZN Coastal Belt	yes	yes	no	no	no	Purchased by EKZNW	no	no
The Shelter	Not resolved	app 1000	Southern Drakensberg foothills	yes	no	no	no	no	Owner undecided	no	no
Hlomhlomo Farm	Nature Reserve	249	Greater Ithala complex	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	Owner declined	no	no
Edgeware	Nature Reserve	560	Midlands/Boston	yes	yes	no	no	no	New owner not conservation minded	no	no

Table 3: List of threatened plant species in Botsoc stewardship sites.

Species	Category	Red Desert NR	Bosch Berg NR	Boston View	Umgano	Ingwehumbé	Normalanga	Hlomo Hlomo	Babanango
Plants									
<i>Encephalartos aemulans</i>	CR							X	
<i>Brachystelma natalense</i>	CR					X			
<i>Begonia dregei</i>	EN					X			
<i>Begonia homonyma</i>	EN					X			
<i>Eriosema populifolium subsp pop</i>	EN					X			
<i>Eriosema umtamvunense</i>	EN	X							
<i>Gerbera aurantiaca</i>	EN						X		
<i>Helichrysum pannosum</i>	EN	X							
<i>Ocotea bullata</i>	EN				X				
<i>Tephrosia inandensis</i>	EN					X			
<i>Alepidea amatymbica</i>	VU					X			
<i>Aloe gerstnerii</i>	VU								X
<i>Aloe neilcrouchii</i>	VU						X		
<i>Argyrolobium longifolium</i>	VU					X			
<i>Asclepias concinna</i>	VU				X				
<i>Brachystelma petraeum</i>	VU		X						
<i>Crinum moorei</i>	VU					X			
<i>Diaphananthe millarii</i>	VU					X			
<i>Dioscorea sylvatica</i>	VU					X			
<i>Dracosciadium italaie</i>	VU								X
<i>Encephalartos ghellinckii</i>	VU				X				
<i>Eriosemopsis subanisophylla</i>	VU					X			
<i>Eriosemopsis subanisophylla</i>	VU	X							
<i>Gerrardanthus tomentosa</i>	VU					X			
<i>Impatiens flanaganiae</i>	VU					X			
<i>Phylica natalensis</i>	VU	X							
<i>Sisyranthus fanniniaie</i>	VU				X				
<i>Stangeria eriopus</i>	VU					X			
<i>Woodia verruculosa</i>	VU					X			
<i>Aloe linearifolia</i>	NT					X			
<i>Brachystelma pulchellum</i>	NT					X			
<i>Encephalartos natalensis</i>	NT					X			
<i>Haemanthus deformis</i>	NT					X			
<i>Merwillia plumbea</i>	NT					X	X		
<i>Acridocarpus natalitius</i>	Declining					X			
<i>Adenia gummifera</i>	Declining					X			
<i>Aloe cooperi</i>	Declining					X			
<i>Ansellia africana</i>	Declining							X	
<i>Cassipourea malosana</i>	Declining					X			
<i>Crinum macowanii</i>	Declining					X			
<i>Cryptocarya latifolia</i>	Declining					X			
<i>Eucomis autumnalis</i>	Declining					X			
<i>Gunnera perpensa</i>	Declining			X		X			X
<i>Rapanea melanophloeos</i>	Declining					X			
<i>Sandersonia aurantiaca</i>	Declining			X		X			

Table 3 (continued): List of threatened bird and mammal species found in Botsoc stewardship sites

Species	Category	Red Desert NR	Bosch Berg NR	Boston View	Umngano	Ingwehumbe	Nomalanga	Hlomo Hlomo	Babanango
Birds									
Blue Swallow	CR								
Bearded Vulture	CR				X				
Wattled crane	CR			X	X		X		
African Marsh-Harrier	EN				X		X		
Bateleur	EN							X	
Black Harrier	EN				X				
Cape Parrot	EN		X	X	X				
Cape Vulture	EN				X				
Lappet faced Vulture	EN						X		
Marshall Eagle	EN				X				
African Grass-owl	VU				X		X		
Bald Ibis	VU				X				
Black-rumped Buttonquail	VU				X				
Blue crane	VU		X	X	X		X	X	
Crowned Eagle	VU		X	X			X		
Denham's Bustard	VU				X				
Eastern Bronze-Naped Pigeon	VU		X	X				X	
Grey Crowned Crane	VU				X				
Martial Eagle	VU		X	X			X	X	
Southern Ground Hornbill	VU		X	X	X	X	X		
Striped Flufftail	VU				X				
Yellow-breasted Pipit	VU				X				
Verreaux Eagle	VU						X		
Lanner falcon	VU						X		
Black Stork	NT		X	X					
Blackwinged Plover	NT		X	X	X				
Bush Blackcap	NT		X	X					
Orange Ground Thrush	NT		X	X				X	
Secretary Bird	NT		X	X					
Mammals									
Oribi	EN	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Tree hyrax	VU			X					
Leopard	VU							X	
Serval	VU		X	X	X		X		
Samango Monkey	VU	X							
Reptiles and amphibians									
African Rock Python	Protected					X		X	X
Midlands Dwarf Chameleon	EN		X	X					
Long-toed Tree Frog	EN		X	X					

Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.

The major success of the project is the proclamation and near proclamation of most of the sites as nature reserves and conservation areas. Plant records are being added to the provincial and national databases.

Some challenges of the project include:

The uncertainty of the current political climate in the country which has generated concern amongst some landowners regarding the long-term commitment of their land to conservation through biodiversity stewardship.

Current climatic conditions ie the present long-term drought with resultant lack of grazing has also affected some landowner's willingness to commit to the management recommendations for stocking rates and consequently the stewardship programme.

The necessity in most sites (especially land reform sites) to have make sustainable income can affect the decision to continue with stewardship commitment when it is in conflict with financially profitable activities. In one case we believe that stewardship has been perceived as a source of funding and is being pursued for the wrong reasons and the landowner/s is not primarily concerned with biodiversity conservation.

The apparent inefficiency of certain government departments must be mentioned here with regard to establishing land ownership.

Due to lack of funding the plant records database for Bews Herbarium at the University of KZN herbarium is not complete. This would have saved us a great deal time and allowed a much more comprehensive and accurate targeting of botanical sites of special significance. Additionally, on a provincial scale we have a limited idea of the effects of the current rapid rate of habitat transformation and degradation on the disappearance of plant species.

Unexpected impacts (positive or negative)

Positive

The initiation of a long-term biodiversity monitoring programme for stewardship sites whose grasslands are utilized for livestock production (Appendix 1). This project has been largely carried out by the Botsoc with assistance from partners. We envisage that this will be a valuable tool for adaptive management of stocking rates for sustainable biodiversity conservation.

Negative

Change in ownership of properties was not foreseen and in some cases has halted the stewardship process as the new owners are not interested in conservation e.g Edgeware.

The discovery that a property under negotiation was under a land claim stalled negotiations. However this was resolved and negotiations have recently been renewed.

Project Components

Project Components: *Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

Component 1 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):

Engagement with landowners/custodians of the targeted properties by the Botsoc stewardship implementer, in collaboration with the Biodiversity Stewardship unit, in order to explain the stewardship process and outcomes and to encourage them to become involved in the stewardship programme.

Component 1 Actual at Completion:

Continual contact was maintained with landowners and community members to address any queries and concerns regarding the stewardship process throughout the project through email, telephone, visits and meetings. When and if necessary, members of the Biodiversity Stewardship Unit attended meetings to assist with queries.

Component 2 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):

Biodiversity assessments will be carried out with the aim of establishing which species and vegetation types of conservation concern occur on the property, and whether the condition of these is appropriate for biodiversity conservation, as well as the importance of the ecosystem services and other factors.

Component 2 Actual at Completion:

- Biodiversity assessments had already been completed for Red Desert, Boston View and Umgano before the current project commenced.
- Biodiversity site assessments were organized and completed for the Hlomo Hlomo, Ingwehumbe (Wingfield), Highover and Edgeware sites in conjunction with the BSP unit.
- Desktop and on-site investigations of biodiversity value of the sites were completed.
- Preliminary botanical surveys of Bosch Berg, Boston View, Edgeware, Hlomo Hlomo, Nomalanga, Umgano and Highover were done.
- Forb diversity condition surveys were done at Boston View/Bosch Berg, Umgano,
- The importance of ecosystem services at the sites was rated with the assistance of the EKZNW natural resource scientist.

Component 3 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):

Site assessment presented for approval by KZN Biodiversity Stewardship Programme review panel for relevant stewardship status.

Component 3 Actual at Completion:

Completed biodiversity site assessments for the Hlomo Hlomo, Ingwehumbe (Wingfield), Highover and Edgeware were presented to the BSP Review Panel and Working Group. All sites qualified as Nature Reserves on the basis of their biodiversity value.

Component 4 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):

Negotiation and finalization of legal agreements for completion of proclamation.

Component 4 Actual at Completion:

- Negotiation of legal documents for proclamation has been completed for Red Desert Nature Reserve, Bosch Berg Nature Reserve, Nomalanga Nature Reserve, Hlomo Hlomo and Ingwehumbe.
- Legal documents have been finalized and signed by landowner and the provincial authority for Red Desert Nature Reserve and Bosch Berg Nature Reserves
- Legal documents have been finalized and signed by landowner for Nomalanga Nature Reserve.
- Legal documents to be finalized and signed by landowners for Hlomo Hlomo and Ingwehumbe Nature Reserves.
- Legal documents for Umgano Nature Reserve will be finalized once the land ownership issue is resolved.
- Legal documents for Highover will be prepared when/if landowner commitment is established.

Component 5 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):

Approval of Stewardship Agreement and Management Plan to guide landowner with appropriate activities for best conservation practice.

Component 5 Actual at Completion:

- Management Plans have been completed for Red Desert, Bosch Berg and Nomalanga Nature Reserves.
- Management Plans have been drafted for Hlomo Hlomo and Ingwehumbe and are awaiting final approval by landowners.
- Management Plans for Umgano are in progress in collaboration with Umgano Project conservation manager and advisors.
- Highover Management Plan draft is currently on hold awaiting landowner commitment.
- Rangeland condition assessments and management recommendations for livestock grazing have been drafted for Bosch Berg, Highover, Nomalanga, Hlomo Hlomo and Umgano.
- Rangeland condition assessment surveys have been completed and management recommendations are being drawn up for the Babanago/Emcakwini Community Trust site.

Component 6 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):

Official proclamation of site as a Nature Reserve.

Component 6 Actual at Completion:

- Red Desert Nature Reserve was officially proclaimed on 9 October 2015.
- Bosch Berg Nature Reserve was officially proclaimed on 9 October 2015.

Component 7 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):

Capacity building and transfer of botanical and basic vegetation analysis skills to landowners, community members, the Botanical Society and CREW (Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers) volunteers throughout the province of KwaZulu-Natal.

Component 7 Actual at Completion:

- Botanical mentoring of Umgano field rangers (see Appendix 2)
- On-site training of field staff, NGO and BSP unit facilitators, landowners and community members during rangeland and forb biodiversity assessments.
- Botanical mentoring to CREW and Botsoc members during botanical surveys.
- Identification of plants and images for landowners and partners during the project.

Component 8 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):

Project management and sustainability

Component 8 Actual at Completion:

- All relevant meetings were attended including BSP office meetings, Review Panel and Working Group meetings.
- Workshops, forums and conferences (convened by CEPF-MPAH, SANBI, and EKZNW Contemporary Conservation Symposium) were attended and presentations relevant to the Botsoc project were given.
- Regular meetings were held with the Botsoc Programme Manager and project advisors.
- The Botsoc has agreed to pay the Stewardship implementer on a part-time basis until end March 2017 to enable completion of outstanding site proclamations (Ingwehumbe, Hlomo Hlomo, Umgano and Highover if appropriate) as well as to engage with further stewardship projects. This continuation will also facilitate initial post-proclamation support for the Botsoc sites and continuation of the long-term grazing monitoring project (Appendix 2).
- The Botsoc sites will be handed over to BSP Unit partner facilitators over this period to ensure continuity in long-term post-proclamation support to the sites.
- The Botsoc is currently engaged with EKZNW to undertake a new Memorandum of Agreement in order to continue the working relationship created through the enabling environment of the CEPF funding.

Were any components unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

Component 4. Signing of legal documents at some sites has not been achieved in the project time frame to date for a variety of reasons. However this should take place in the next few weeks for two of the sites. While this will affect the target of hectares under conservation in the short term at project close date, it will be achieved in the next quarter.

Component 6. Official proclamation of some sites was not achieved at project closure dates for reasons beyond our control.

One of sites originally selected had to be put on hold because of the use of another route to conservation i.e. purchase of Fairview (60ha) by EKZNW; at other sites land owner unwillingness to commit to stewardship prevented progress i.e. the Shelter (app.1500 ha) and the smaller of the two properties comprising the proposed nature reserve at Hlomo Hlomo (200 ha).

This has been setback but has not affected our overall target except for the reduction in the number of hectares of critically endangered Coastal Grassland in the case of Fairview.

Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

The following methodologies and tools were developed and used during this project:

1. Development of long term grassland biodiversity monitoring methodology for adaptive management in biodiversity stewardship sites with grasslands grazed by livestock for agricultural purposes. (Appendix 1)
2. Botanical mentoring of community members using the example of the Umgano Field Ranger training. (Appendix 2)
3. Site specific field guides to common plants for visitors at BSP sites with nature-based tourism: Boston View forest: a case-study (Appendix 3)

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

Proposed time frames for securing land for conservation may be unrealistic due to a number of factors including over-commitment and outside influences.

Finding a balance between 'pestering' and neglecting landowners is not always easy and this can influence outcomes.

Working alone in the region was challenging at times, but more than compensated for by the support of partners. This emphasizes the importance of forming strong relationships with other implementing organisations.

Accepting that conservation is not always on top of landowners' agendas and working around this to achieve objectives.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

Shortcomings:

Underestimation of the time needed to conclude stewardship processes. We estimated the time needed to complete some components without taking some major complicating issues into account. It is difficult to see how these can be factored into project design. Unforeseen complications – change of land ownership (Edgeware, Bostonview), owner decision to not pursue stewardship (The Shelter, Hlomohlomo Farm), difficulty in getting legal confirmation of land ownership (Umngano), land claim resolution (Ingwehumbe/Wingfield), lack of commitment to conservation outcomes (Highover), length of time taken to get documents signed by MEC.

Successes: The close working relationship formed with the BSP Unit, collaboration with partners, and interactions with landowners and communities resulting in increased enthusiasm for biodiversity in most cases, and awareness of its need for conservation and careful management.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

The need for economic sustainability in conservation sites is an imperative in most cases, especially in the case of community owned/land reform sites.

At Umngano the proposed nature reserve (i800ha) is a portion of the larger biodiversity agreement site (7500 ha) which in turn is part of the even larger Mabandla trust area. Economic sustainability has been addressed to some extent by the establishment of agreed commercial forestry within the BA area. A newly launched community livestock scheme also within the BA area may eventually supplement this. The nature reserve itself will receive limited income from ecotourism. With these and other proposed income generating projects outside of the conservation areas the project may be sustainable and the long term sustainability of the nature reserve may be feasible. However, there are approximately 3000 beneficiaries in the community.

At Highover, formerly a small ecotourism-based income site, there are at least nine beneficiary families requiring income. As this is a marginal eco-tourism site the community trust is exploring other agriculturally based (the site has limited agricultural potential) but conservation unfriendly options. The community believe that committing to stewardship will attract funding and are keen to pursue this as well. This has caused some concern on our part and we are reluctant to proceed with the stewardship process until we are convinced of the commitment of the community trust to conservation.

Economic sustainability of community based sites is a priority. Eco-tourism is not the answer in many cases in marginal tourist areas. Game ranching is also marginal on smaller properties. A huge challenge for conservation is to find solutions that will provide community beneficiaries with an income without compromising the biodiversity value and integrity of their land.

Additional Funding

Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of the CEPF investment in this project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
The Botanical Society	A	USD 10000 USD 27500	Vehicle Project costs post Nov 2015 to 2017
SANBI CREW	A	USD 5000	Volunteer assistance
EKZNW	A	USD R4800	Office space and facilities
GEF SANBI ¹	B	USD250000	Potential Grant for continuation of Botsoc and other NGO involvement in stewardship in KZN

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

- A Project co-financing (Other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*
 - B Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project.)*
- ¹ There has been an application for GEF funding by EKZNW with the intention of ongoing partnership with the Botsoc and other partners to continue with stewardship implementation and maintenance in parts of KZN. This is currently in process and will be incorporated into the ongoing work for the benefit of biodiversity stewardship in the region. This will build on the initial CEPF investment regarding stewardship and the protection of the special conservation areas of the regions and the protection of the vulnerable and threatened endemic plants.
- C Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

Botsoc has agreed to pay the Stewardship implementer on a part-time basis until end March 2017 to enable completion of outstanding site proclamations (Ingwehumbe, Hlomo Hlomo, Umgano and Highover - the latter if appropriate). This continuation will also facilitate initial post-proclamation support for the Botsoc sites. Botsoc sites will be handed over to BSP Unit partner facilitators over this period to ensure continuity and in long-term post-proclamation support to the sites. Botsoc is currently engaged with EKZNW to undertake a new Memorandum of Agreement in order to continue the working relationship created through the enabling environment of the CEPF funding.

Our biggest concern regarding sustainability is long-term post-proclamation support for stewardship sites. The current critical under-resourcing of the KZN Biodiversity Stewardship Unit and the number of vacant and under-capacitated EKZNW District Conservation Officer posts will most likely result in limited post-proclamation support. It is

essential that landowners and especially communities are kept in continual contact and given advice and support for the ongoing success of stewardship. This concern is shared by most of our partners.

Unless this is addressed a great deal of the resources used to create conservation areas will have been wasted.

The continual demands of development e.g. mining/fracking and the increasing demand for food are also huge threats to biodiversity conservation in the MPAH hotspot.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

An unplanned sustainability of the project is the opportunity in the collaboration with a retailer promoting the plight of SA's threatened plants by manufacturing reusable bags with a story telling of the plants. This has created the opportunity of an unplanned fundraising drive for the benefit of conservation of our most threatened plants with a focus on the hotspots.

The unplanned sustainability for the BotSoc in this project includes the excitement of the initial investment with the CEPF support to create the enabling environment for the collaborative efforts from an array of stakeholders in achieving the objectives.

Added to this is unplanned sustainability which lies in the current closer working relationships, collaborations as well as partnerships across other projects and initiatives in the region even outside of the CEPF investment.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project. NA

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Support to Partners

A component of this project not adequately covered above is the considerable amount of time and expertise spent assisting the Biodiversity Stewardship Unit and partner NGO organizations with botanical and ecological assistance and advice. This was supported at the MPAH mid-term forum where the concept of a 'center of excellence' was discussed and resulted in additional funding being granted by CEPF.

Continuation of project to finalise outstanding components

The Botanical Society has committed to continue to support and pay the stewardship implementer on a part-time basis until the end March 2017 in order to facilitate and enable the following:

(It is to be noted that some of the elements are beyond the BotSoc control we have partnered with a government agency and are guided by the internal processes of the Governmental guidelines. Botsoc is committed to assist however and wherever it can make the project reach a sustainable conclusion.)

- Completion of Hlomo Hlomo Game Reserve legal documentation signing. This site has taken longer than anticipated due to landowner concerns beyond stewardship which were recently resolved.
- Completion of Ingwehumbe legal documentation and Management Plan. This site has taken longer than scheduled due to the protracted resolution of a spurious land claim which was de-gazetted in Sept 2015 enabling the Stewardship process to continue.

- Handover of sites to EKZNW BSP facilitator for continuity. Due to the recent but continuing critical under-resourcing of the Unit this has not been possible to implement to date.
- Continuation of ecological assistance to partner sites needing assistance biodiversity site and rangeland condition assessments (WWF Pivaanspoort and Northern Zululand Pongola Land reform sites, Birdlife Blue Swallow sites). We have been unable to do this as yet in the current season (spring/summer 2015/6) due to serious drought conditions.
- Completion of the Emcakwini/Babanango Community Trust rangeland condition report and management recommendations.

While Botsoc is conscious that these elements cannot be included in the CEPF MPAH final report, they will help to ensure the completion of commitments undertaken in the Botsoc project which have been delayed for reasons beyond our control.

In conclusion the Botanical Society would like to express their gratitude to the CEPF for awarding the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany grant to fund this project. This project has brought a number of advantages including strengthening the organization's profile in KwaZulu-Natal conservation, and the formation of a number of partnerships in the region including with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, the Department of Agriculture, EWT, WWF, Birdlife, Conservation Outcomes, MCF and other NGOs. It has also strengthened the possibilities of receiving further funding to continue with botanical conservation work in the region.

Without the initial investment of the CEPF funding, the Botanical Society of SA would not have had the strength of the current presence in the region as well as the cultivated respect for positive working relations cutting across various stakeholders, government, non-government as well as community based organisations.

A further positive outcome of this support and collaboration for the BotSoc SA was the improvement in the internal processes, governance and the use of its internal funds, as well as creating opportunities for the BotSoc members to actively engage in citizen science through the CREW programme and the passive support of donations to specific conservation outreach work such as the stewardship programme in this important hotspot in trying to increase the protected areas network.

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below:

Name: Zaitoon Rabaney / Isabel Johnson

Organization name: Botanical Society of South Africa

Mailing address: Private Bag X 10, Claremont, 7735 South Africa

Tel: (021) 797-2090

Fax: (021) 797-2376

E-mail: Z.Rabaney@botanicalsociety.org.za / johnsoni@botanicalsociety.org.za

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets

(Enter Grant Term)

Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from January 2012 to November 2015 (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	Yes	1394 ha	1394 ha	Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one. Red Desert Nature Reserve 209 ha Bosch Berg Nature Reserve 351 ha Boston View Biodiversity Agreement Area 834 ha Management plans have also been drafted for the following sites although they have not been proclaimed yet (ha not included in box) Nomalanga 2749 ha Ingwehumbe 1031 ha Hlomo Hlomo 803 ha Umgano 1500 ha
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	Yes	560 ha	560ha	Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one. Red Desert Nature Reserve 209 ha. Bosch Berg Nature Reserve 351 ha.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Yes	7522 ha	7522ha	Red Desert (Oribi Gorge- Mbumbazi complex, Pondoland corridor " 209ha); Nomalanga (Greater Greytown complex " 2794ha); Bosch Berg (Boston Midlands complex 351ha); Boston View (Boston Midlands complex 351ha) Ingwehumbe (Eston complex 1031ha); Umgano (Umzinkhulu complex, Highland Grasslands corridor -1500ha); Hlomohlomo (Greater Ithala complex -803ha).
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Yes	Approx. 1300 ha	Approx. 1300 ha	Babanago/Emcakwini Community Trust
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	No			