

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	WESSA (Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa)
Project Title:	Nelson Mandela Bay Urban Conservation Programme
Date of Report:	30 January 2014
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CEPF Region: Maputaland – Pondoland – Albany Biodiversity Hotspot

Strategic Direction: 2. Expand conservation areas and improve land use in 19 key biodiversity areas through innovative approaches.

Grant Amount: US\$ 186 702.00

Project Dates: 1 June, 2011 to 31 December, 2013

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

<p>WESSA</p> 	Key programme partner, providing staff, logistical support and ecological and conservation management expertise.
<p>NMBM</p> 	Key programme partner, providing staff, logistical support and ecological and conservation management expertise.
<p>CREW (Custodians of Rare & Endangered Wildflowers)</p> 	Key programme partner, with the Port Elizabeth branch Chairman seconded into the Stewardship/MOSS Coordination component of this NMBUCP. Other members provided botanical expertise in the initial site assessments, as well as site rehab projects across the city. These members include Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University botany experts.
<p>Baakens Valley Preservation Trust (BVPT)</p>	Key programme partner in the Baakens Valley Community Partnership programme component (BVCP). This CBO with its volunteer members helped implement many public activities in the Baakens Valley, and formed part of our BVCP management team. They will remain part of the BVCP going beyond this funded programme period.

Botanical Society of SA (BotSoc)	Their members who interacted with this programme, most of whom are also CREW members, provided botanical and stewardship practice expertise. BotSoc incorporates the Dendrological Society of South Africa, and this programme held joint activities with them on MOSS CBAs
South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)	Representatives provided biodiversity and urban conservation and stewardship practice expertise during the start-up phase of this programme
Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency (ECPTA)	Was a partner on building stewardship best practice in the Eastern Cape. Formed part of the Stewardship Technical and Assessment review panel (BSSRP).
Wilderness Foundation-SA (WF-SA)	Is an active conservation partner of WESSA and the NMBM, and has been involved in the forerunner initiatives to this proposal, including the Baakens Valley Recovery Programme (BVRP). They helped facilitate our mid-term review, the 2010 and 2013 Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) evaluations and the Reserve Operational Management Plan (ROMP). They have also brought many environmental education (EE) group outings into the Baakens Valley. They are also looking to relocate their ranger and hospitality training centre into the Baakens Valley, with their trainee rangers bolstering the BVRangers
SA Police Service (SAPS)	Has fully supported the security interventions in the Baakens Valley. The BVCP sat on the SAPS monthly Group Level Operational Coordinating Committees (GOCOC) Safety and Security Forums, where we swapped intelligence and coordinated responses to emerging crime trends in the Baakens Valley. Associated to the SAPS, are their community-based Crime Sector Forums that the BVCP interacted with, sharing crime intelligence. Many BVPT members sat on various CSF, creating a wide network that allowed us to react quickly to incidents of crime, vandalism, dumping, poaching and trespassing.
Private security companies	Two companies in particular, ADT and Atlas, contributed to efforts to improve safety in urban conservation areas. They also provided volunteer security at public events in the Valley.
Nelson Mandela Bay Tourism (NMBT)	The NMBM's tourism agency enthusiastically supported arrangement of events that profiled and promoted the conservation and wise-use of urban conservation areas. Their contacts helped sponsor these events, such as the SOV Family MTBike and Runs and Christmas and Freedom Day concerts.
Other local partners	These included: Birdlife Eastern Cape, Fat Tracks Mountain-bike Club, Pacemakers, University of the 3rd Age, Triangle Sports, Saturday Strollers, Voetsec Klub, Mountain Club of SA, Wednesday Walkers, churches, schools, crèches, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU), ratepayers associations, Business Against Crime, Take Back The City Picknickers, Lion Roars Foundation and Adopt-a-plot/Friends volunteer rehabilitation groups of conservation areas.

	<p>These recreational and sporting clubs engaged with the BVCP, participating in the events we arranged as well as their own. Some, like FatTracks contributed further by hacking aliens to improve their own enjoyment of the Baakens Valley. They are expected to continue doing so, so long as the security of the Valley is maintained.</p> <p>We also enjoyed fruitful associations with our local media (radio stations, regional and local newspapers, SABC National Television and BayTV),</p>
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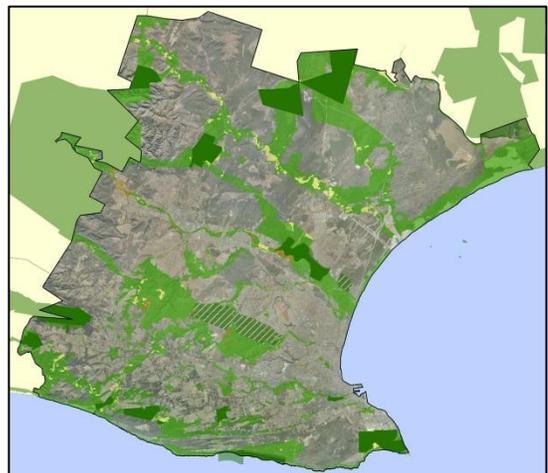
Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

CEPF’s investment in the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot (MPAH) will be to support civil society in applying innovative approaches to conservation in under-capacitated 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.

The Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM) is host to the Port Elizabeth Mosaic, the highest rated Key Biodiversity Area identified in the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot Ecosystem Profile document. The NMBay hosts a high diversity of habitat types, as it occurs at the convergence of five biomes, predominantly Thicket and Fynbos, with mosaic vegetation types including Forest, Grassland and Nama Karoo. It is also situated at the meeting place of two centres of endemism, namely the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany and Cape centres of endemism, producing many mosaic vegetation types rich in endemic plant species. In the NMBay, 52 vegetation types have been identified, as well as 6 aquatic habitats. Vegetation types within NMBM is recognised as a priority conservation site by various bioregional planning programmes, including the Cape Action Plan for People and the Environment (C.A.P.E.) and the Subtropical Thicket Ecosystem Planning (STEP) Programme.

Major transformation has occurred in the last ten years, resulting in 23 vegetation types listed as critically endangered, 10 endangered and 15 as vulnerable. In 2003 and revised in 2009, the NMBM undertook a systematic conservation planning exercise which identified 28 Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) within the NMBay, and recommended that these be integrated into the Metropolitan Open Space System (NMB MOSS), to fulfil the objective of safeguarding key biodiversity in a manner that will facilitate the long-term persistence and provision of vital ecosystem processes, habitats and species. To advance the implementation of the NMB MOSS, the NMBM recognised in its MOSS Action Plans that firstly, the urban environment and its development, political and social uplift



The 28 CBAs and corridors of the NMB MOSS (2009)

pressures require a pragmatic approach to conservation. Secondly, the NMBM recognises that its own capacity constraints require it to partner with civil society and business interests, if it is to advance the NMB MOSS objectives. The MOSS Action Plans promote, amongst others, the development of urban stewardship and community conservation initiatives. Both had been piloted tested in the NMBay in 2007. The Baakens Valley Recovery Programme piloted community conservation efforts on a landscape scale in NMB, between 2009 and June 2011. A shortcoming of this pilot BVRP was that it did not consult a wide community in project activities, nor did it achieve broad political support alongside the attained community support. The NMBM is facing severe socio-economic challenges, its politicians voting funds away from conservation efforts unless it can show direct and significant service delivery and job-creation benefits. There was a need to reframe the BVRP and other community conservation efforts to address this shortcoming, and then advance the pilot into maturation. Guidance as to this reframing was determined through a broad stakeholder visioning process that took place in June 2011.

The focus of this Nelson Mandela Bay Urban Conservation Programme (NMBUCP) has been to strengthen the practice of community-based conservation and the sustainable management of conservation-worthy privately-owned land identified as part of the NMB MOSS in a way that benefits the surrounding communities, particularly those poor communities for whom socio-economic upliftment is a priority. This NMBUCP has supported civil society in applying innovative approaches to conservation in under-capacitated key biodiversity areas and priority corridors of the NMB MOSS, which forms part of the Port Elizabeth Mosaic of the MPAH.

The NMBUCP remains a partnership programme of the NMBM, WESSA and CREW. The 2½ year period funded by the CEPF MPAH programme has had two components, which originally sought to:

- Test pilot biodiversity stewardship agreements with selected landowners, in the context of strengthening a municipal biodiversity steward programme (NMB BSP), including the application of biodiversity municipal rates rebates and provision of extension services. A CREW member was seconded to become the coordinator for this programme.
- Build on the 2009-2011 Baakens Valley Recovery Programme, with this new phase now called the Baakens Valley Community Partnership (BVCP), which sought to develop community-based conservation efforts, including addressing socio-economic needs and community development goals.

In January 2013, the loss of key NMBM Biodiversity Stewardship staff forced a cessation of the NMB BSP. It was critical to fill the gap in managing the MOSS until the NMBM could appoint new staff. With CEPF agreement, the component morphed into the NMB MOSS Coordination Project, whereby the CREW Coordinator was redirected to fulfil some of the strategic conservation MOSS planning and action activities in NMBM, such as the continued lobbying for the NMBM Environmental Management Framework (EMF) and the NMBM Bioregional Plan (NMB BP); advancing the proclamation of Van de Kemp's Kloof and Aloes Nature Reserve; and the rezoning of critically endangered municipal-owned properties into Public Open Space (including those in the Baakens Valley). In this way we sought to invest more time that was originally proposed to expanding the conservation estate with the Port Elizabeth complex through the above listed means.



The Baakens River Valley is a prominent natural area of Port Elizabeth and one of the 28 critical biodiversity conservation corridors. It connects to two of the other NMB MOSS Corridors, the Swartkops River Valley and Van der Kemp's Kloof – Groendal Corridors, which form part of the Port Elizabeth Complex. The Baakens River Valley also represents an ecotone for four of the five biomes found in the city, namely the Thicket, Nama-Karoo, Forest and Fynbos Biomes. Mosaic variations of the Thicket Biome are normally rich in

endemic species, particularly where succulents and geophytes are concerned. A botanical survey of species of special concern, conducted as part of the BVRP, identified several important populations of such species. The conservation of the Baakens Valley Corridor is critical in terms of the achievement of the NMB MOSS biodiversity targets. The Valley also plays crucial role as a wildlife refuge, in flood control and provides recreational and educational opportunities. Given institutional neglect this area had been severely impacted upon by urban encroachment, alien plant infestations leading to biodiversity loss, illegal dumping, poaching, littering etc. Muggings had also undermined the area as a community resource. Community support was identified as being central in turning this situation around.

'We'll take our parks back'

RECREATIONAL parks in Port Elizabeth have been taken over by the city's council. After a year, it is time to take them back. A group of concerned citizens has formed the 'We'll take our parks back' committee. The group has been successful in getting the council to take back the parks. The group has been successful in getting the council to take back the parks. The group has been successful in getting the council to take back the parks.

Stand together to reclaim city parks

From P1

"If Heves message to get away and reach those bushes they will be very hard to find. We would then need to call in the dog units. If we had eyes and ears in place, the police could be notified as soon as possible," he said.

Priller is reaching out to local residents and businesses to get them to help them back to their community.

"Anyone who is able to give of their time to help patrol or help to prevent a crime would be of great help," said Priller.

"Those who are not prepared to do anything and just want to tolerate what happens, deserve what they get. We should be willing to get up and do something if enough of us stand together we can take our city back and give a happy back to our children," he said.

"We can make a difference," Priller said it was not their intention to be "heroes" but to be the eyes, ears, nose and voice of the community.

"We are doing the natural wonders of Port Elizabeth because we are being held hostage by a handful of people," he said.

"It is a beautiful spot but people are afraid. We hope in the future to reclaim this land and use it for families so it is safe."

Priller said together with Wessa and the police, i-Patrol was "fully committed" to eradicating crime in the area.

If more volunteers are available, Victoria Park will also be included.

Ward 1 DA councillor Stanford Shaberi said there had also been an increase in attacks at Victoria Park and around the South End cricket stadium.

See what residents had to say on P4

Have your say

Value your opinion. For a letter to 041-585 9100, write to us at: Alison Day, editorial, Port Elizabeth Daily News, Port Elizabeth 6000, or e-mail us at: alison@ednews.co.za

According to Wessa it costs about R3 500 a month to employ a ranger. With the help of the rangers, there is about a 30% drop in tagging and litter break-ins along the Baakens Valley.

To help patrol with i-Patrol contact John Priller on 084-446 7137 or to help sponsor the Baakens Valley Rangers contact Morgan Griffiths on 041-585 9606.

Continued: P2

PARK PATROL: John Priller of the Sector 3 Crime Forum – Warden and chairman of the Sector 3 Policing Forum Bernadette Henderson in one of the i-Patrol vehicles that will help patrol the Settlers Park area to eradicate crime. **Picture: LESLIE AH**

WESSA, working in partnership with the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM), received funding from the Table Mountain Fund over 2007-2010 towards catalysing a recovery of the Baakens Valley as a safe community resource and functional ecological system. This programme elevated the Valley's recreational and tourism opportunities. Further support was needed to strengthen this fledgling programme and to sustain the involvement of stakeholders. This has been given through this NMBUCP, from June 2011 to December 2013, as the re-focused Baakens Valley Community Partnership Programme (BVCP). It has had a stronger focus on building capacity and partnerships between municipal officials and civil society. It aimed to support and broaden the institutionalisation of this approach within the NMBM and broaden the social, economic and political relevance of nature conservation, with

an emphasis on creating access for local disadvantaged communities to unlocked resources within the valley.

This has meant that the NMBM has been required to take a leading role on the programme. It was agreed that the BVCP needed to engage a much wider community,

to expand the partnership base to bring additional expertise; to build the relevance of the practice so as to adhere more closely with the service delivery objectives of the municipality, more specifically addressing socio-economic needs and community development goals. Political relevance had to be shown, in order to protect and expand municipal expenditure to meet its conservation goals. The municipality has responded to the challenges that were posed and has made a considerable effort to try to address these issues, which will be outlined in the sections below.

The BVCP set out to:

- Implement the outcomes of the June 2011 stakeholder visioning process, that promoted activities that would build community involvement, encourage collaboration amongst partners and improve the capacity of civil society and municipal staff in community-based conservation. Critical was the need to create socio-political relevance.
- Improve the tourism and community use of the BV through the implementation of a safety and security programme.
- Strengthen and promote the value of the BV as an environmental educational and recreational resource, with an emphasis on promoting activities that encouraged social unity and participation across the broad socio-economic spectrum;
- Develop innovative communication mechanisms with stakeholders;
- Involve and capacitate civil society in the conservation management of the BV;
- Undertake a community development process that would build community, link poor communities to job and skills development opportunities, seek educational opportunities and scope for creating awareness and identifies opportunities that would forge non-racialism and demonstrate a different way for conservation which involved communities;
- Assist in the processes to expand and consolidate the protected area network, through mechanisms such as Protected Area status rezonings and stewardship practices on private and government lands;
- Institutionalise community-based conservation within the operational parameters of the NMBM;
- Test and review the effectiveness of this community-based management model, thereby seeking to strengthen the operational management of all the NMBM conservation areas.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

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

The biodiversity conservation estate in the Port Elizabeth Complex is expanded and better protected, though the development of local stewardship and urban-conservation practices. These practices contribute to the development of the Eastern Cape Provincial stewardship and landcare programmes.

Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

As indicated previously the NMB Biodiversity Stewardship Programme (NMB BSP) morphed into the NMB MOSS Coordination Project. The NMB Bioregional Plan is in the process of being gazetted by Provincial government and the Environmental Management Framework (EMF) is about to go before the NMBM Council for final approval. The NMB BSP and the EMF are critical biodiversity conservation tools which

will severely limit inappropriate development options in areas identified as Critical Biodiversity Area (CBAs) or conservation areas, whether they are municipal or privately owned. While not entirely the ‘magic bullet’ against inappropriate development, they will afford the strongest level of protection under South Africa legislation to date – as significant conservation measures for the biodiversity estate. The reserve proclamations and Public Open Space (POS) and conservation area rezonings are being advanced by the NMBM MOSS (intern) Officer through the NMBM Council approval process. While quite advanced and despite strong lobbying, the pace and eventual approval date for these proclamations and rezonings are completely outside of the NMBUCP’s control. But they also represent significant steps towards the expansion and long-term protection of the South African conservation estate.

The early NMB BSP included work on developing municipal site assessment methodologies, a municipal stewardship rates rebate policy (first in the country) and environmental management plan templates for landowner stewardship agreements. This learning and development phase was conducted by the NMBM, CREW, WESSA and the ECPTA, and contributed to the growth of the provincial stewardship programme led by the ECPTA. CREW and NMBM staff have



been capacitated to develop a functioning stewardship programme, such as the CREW members pictured left learning how to conduct site assessments which can be drawn on when the NMBM re-ignites this conservation strategy. Abigail Kamineth (NMBM), who led this phase, spread this learning to the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) when she was appointed as the new Deputy Director of Biodiversity Mainstreaming and Stewardship in January 2013. The creation of this post is part of GDARD’s plan to continue with the biodiversity mainstreaming gains made in partnership with the SANBI Grasslands Programme.

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

Civil society is capacitated to assist the NMBM in the development and implementation of an urban biodiversity stewardship and community conservation programme and to ensure their effective institutionalisation of these programmes within the NMBM.

Community, civil society and the NMBM work together in ensuring the persistence of biodiversity in CBAs in the hands of private landowners; and builds the practice of growing the Baakens Valley (BV) as a safe community resource, well-managed and functional ecological corridor. Impacts include:

- Stewardship practice, materials and tools has been developed, piloted and refined.
- Engagement with landowners has led to them preparing to sign biodiversity stewardship agreements with the NMBM (target of 4 agreements)
- Public perception and utilization of the BV is improved, promoted by institutionalised security, conservation, recreational and environmental education programmes and events.

- NGO and NMBM staff, as well as other stakeholders and communities, have developed capacity to be able implement urban stewardship and community conservation activities at other CBAs in the NMBay.

Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

We have gone a long way to achieving the underlying objective of the MPAH Programme in the capacity building for community-based conservation, whereby the local communities and conservation managers have learnt how to work together to protect and sustainably utilise biodiversity resources. In building action competence through this, the NMBUCP, WESSA, CREW and the NMBM, along with its other smaller implementation partners and stakeholders, have increased their capacity to engage in and sustain community-based conservation efforts. Just a small measure of this can be seen in how unemployed township youth and township churches were able to get involved in the planning and staging of large public concerts and sporting events, thereby learning valuable hard and soft skills, as well as developing their confidence in engaging with established conservation and business environments.

Rasta Hombile (Walmer Youth Development Forum) and Walmer Family Church Reverend Zolile Dayimani at the Freedom Day Music Concert they helped organise with BVCP Co-manager Morgan Griffiths (WESSA) standing between BVRangers Ernest Sineli and Kennedy Mabanga.

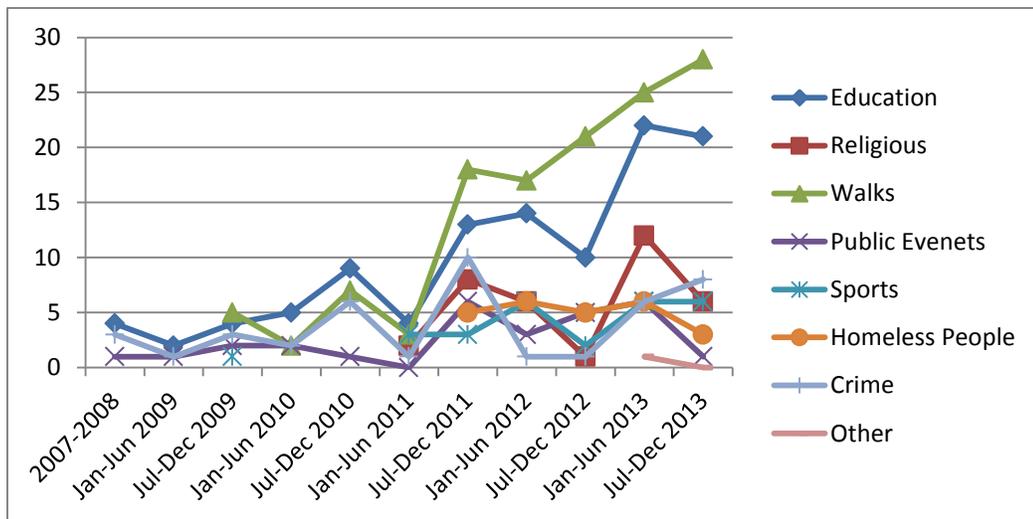


The human capacity development of the involved staff and volunteers has gone deeper than these learning experiences mentioned above. Through having to work together, sometimes on a daily basis, staff from the very different work ethos and cultures of volunteer CBOs, structured NGOs and a bureaucratic municipal, have had to find that middle ground of understanding, acceptance, tolerance and cooperation. The early stages were not easy – with a period of tension in work styles that had to be worked through. This had led to a strong partnership, which will continue to work together beyond the CEPF funded period of the BVCP. Another experiential learning element was the social integration process of established, educated conservation staff and volunteers, coming from a relatively well-off, white social position, engaging with poor and disadvantaged black township dwellers. Guided by Therese Boule, a social development consultant, the BVCP engaged in dialogues that elucidated understanding of both superficial and deeper cultural, social and historical aspects that influenced our ability to achieve social integration and relevance for our conservation spaces. For instance at a superficial level, we tried different methods to encourage township youth to join in public walks and volunteer AIP hacks, difficult to achieve when they are hungry and focussed on finding jobs – without offering hand-outs that create a dependency or expectation culture. We had to sway middle-class volunteers to understand why township participants are generally late for events because of public transport deficiencies and not out of a disregard for punctuality. At a deeper level, we have been trying to engender a new social practice of recreating in urban conservation areas amongst black township residents who were previously discouraged under generations

of Apartheid from doing so. In addition, the use of peer learning has proved very valuable in building self-esteem and sharing knowledge crossing many boundaries between stakeholders and staff employed on the programme and at other biodiversity conservation areas e.g. Kirstenbosch-NMBM staff peer learning event in Cape Town.

All of this has helped to germinate a new social relevance that we hope in time will motivate a political consequence that supports improved funding for and protection of the NMB conservation estate. Through conducting user surveys over the last 4 years in the Baakens valley, we have been encouraged by how the user demographics have broadened to include previously excluded groups and the greater general appreciation of the value of the BV being expressed. Our success in growing the Baakens Valley as a safe community resource, well-managed and functional ecological corridor is reflected in the 41 public and private events that were recorded in the period July to December 2013, up from 8 for the same period in 2009 when conservation efforts began in the BV! Recorded visitor numbers have exploded from just 211 over all of 2007 and 2008, to 4565 for just July to December 2013. We estimate that over 20 000 people used the Baakens Valley last year for recreating, sporting and educational activities. Table 1 below displays the increasing numbers of positive events promoted by the BVCP.

Table 1: Recorded events in the Baakens Valley: Jan 2007 – Dec 2013



Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: 2000 ha

Species Conserved: There are a number of plant species that have been identified in the Baakens Valley and at other sites assessed under the initial biodiversity stewardship component that are listed as rare, endangered and critically endangered. However due to the very real risk of plant poaching, the BVCP is not publishing these species and the sites where they occur. However the Baakens Valley Reserve Operational Management Plan (ROMP) does manage these sites for the protection of these species. We are very disappointed that the most critical site for these species at the wetland headwaters of the Baakens River was approved for a shopping mall development by the provincial government, against the opposition of the NMBM. The NMB BSP and EMF will go a long way to preventing such approvals in the future.

Corridors Created: None

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

<i>Biggest Successes</i>	<i>Factors that promoted this success</i>
Successful working partnership between WESSA and the NMBM	Earnest desire to work together Pooling of skills and resources Appointment of new NMBM BV management team
Bringing crime under control	Continuous deployment of the BVRangers, through WESSA's fundraising efforts (BVRangers sponsored by Coca-Cola Fortune from 2012-2015) Partnering with SAPS and the private security companies The public recognising that there was a renewed management presence in the BV and supporting it with information
The increase in visitor numbers from 841 in 2009 to 7661 in 2013	Reduction in crime Events arranged by the BVCP which renewed public confidence Outside parties hosting events in response to perceived drop in crime in the BV
The inflow of funds towards job creation for unemployed township youth	The public and local companies, such as Coca-Cola Fortune and the Lion Roars Group recognising that there was a renewed management presence in the BV and supporting it Creating tangible, if short-term, job opportunities
The rejuvenation of the BV Preservation Trust	Crime reduced Perception that the BV was being improved and that the NMBM BV managers were trying to improve things, which encouraged the BVPT to deepen and broaden their involvement
The development of the BV as an educational resource	Reduction in crime persuaded schools to use the BV again. WESSA and the NMBM's own environmental education (EE) programmes directed many school visits to the BV, as well as through the BVCP's own EE programme. NMMU encouraged to use BV as a study site for its botany and architecture students
Institutionalisation of the BVCP across a number of NMBM silos	The Sewerage Infrastructure Department was a significant cooperating partner in accepting responsibility for dealing with spills that have heavily impacted the river system. The community-based conservation approach has been adopted by the NMBM Environmental Services Directorate, and has been formally incorporated into the ROMP implementation methodology.

Capacitation of CREW members	A number of their members have been up-skilled and acquired valuable project management and job experience. A renewed focus of activities, supported by training events were undertaken through NMBUCP funding.
Advancement of the NMB BP and EMF	This NMBUCP was able to fill the gap left when the previous NMB MOSS Coordinator resigned, and has forwarded the process of gazetting these policies to near completion. Both are highly valuable conservation tools, as discussed above.
<i>Biggest Challenges</i>	<i>Impact on programme</i>
The NMBUCP not obtained political or executive-level NMBM support, translating into poor municipal budget support.	The BVCP tried to involve councillors and executive level NMBM leadership, but the socio-economic gains of the BVCP has been too small for their attention. The long-term instability, budget crisis and political infighting with the NMBM's staff and political structures, coupled with the BV being within political opposition-controlled wards, has resulted in lack of NMBM Council interest to invest in the BV. This despite the growing economic and social value of the Baakens as a major sporting venue.
BVRangers not yet absorbed into NMBM	The BVRangers should be a municipal staff unit, and its persistence as a WESSA staff unit, has created management complexity and inefficiencies, prevented equitable working conditions for the rangers when compared to NMBM staff and placed a heavy burden on WESSA to find funding for the rangers salaries on an annual basis. The lack of certainty around the persistence of funding, due to allocation of CSI spend of sponsors on only an annual basis, has limited the effective long term management planning for the Valley which needs to include the cohort of BV Rangers.
NMBM staff changes	The loss of three key NMBM staff from the NMB BSP caused the collapse of this component of the NMBUCP, as the NMBM no longer had the capacity to continue with negotiating with landowners nor the required follow-up actions. The NMBM Baakens Valley Reserve also had a dysfunctional management and labour situation; which was severely inhibiting the BVCP's turn-around strategies and the NMBM staff committed to making the BVCP achieve its goals. Thankfully a new reserve manager and management team was appointed in early-2013, and this has resulted in a radical improvement in the conservation management of the valley. The obstreperous labour force has largely been disciplined, and the young Groen Sebenza incubants have made an enthusiastic addition to the ageing, ailing existing labour force.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

In making the valley safer to access, we have had to deal with the “Law of Unintended Consequences” – i.e. an upsurge in prostitutes bringing their clients into the valley and teenagers leaving behind bottles and condoms. But on the positive side: local residents, event organisers and corporates have volunteered to re-building trails, bike tracks and footbridges, sponsoring new signage, hacking alien plants and equipping the rangers, etc. As people have seen a resurgence of events, it has encouraged their participation and support for the BVCP’s goals. A measure of this can be seen from the increased co-financing of this project: we had projected an amount of just \$175 100. With all the donations and fund-raising efforts by new partners and stakeholders we raised more than double that: \$360 853! The Baakens Valley is now better protected by a growing community of stakeholders with vested interests in utilising the valley.



Volunteers of the Adopt-A-Plot group, The Baakens Buddies, have invested many hours into repairing trail bridges and paths; not only to benefit their own use of the valley, but to facilitate large sporting events as well.

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):

The programme is operationalised through appointment of staff, establishment of institutional structures and building collaboration amongst partners

Component 1 Actual at Completion:

The NMBUCP developed a MoU between the main programme implementers: WESSA, NMBM and CREW. We also set up governance and reporting structures, such as a strategic programme steering committee (PSC), component level team meetings, technical committees and financial management and oversight. There are meeting records of these. The BVPT joined the BVCP team meetings as a full component implementation partner and later as a PSC member.

The requisite staff were appointed and/or seconded from the implementers and stakeholders.

These include Morgan Griffiths (WESSA) as NMBUCP Co-manger, Abigail Kamineth(NMBM) NMBUCP Co-manger, with Clyde Scott (NMBM) replacing her in 2013. Clayton Weatherall-Thomas was seconded from CREW to be the NMB BSP/MOSS Coordinator.

Current NMBM staff arrangement to support the advancement of the BVCP:

- NMBM MOSS Officer (Lukhanyo Makaka)

- NMBM Baakens Valley Reserve Manager (RM: Clyde Scott)
- NMBM Baakens Valley Site Manager (SM: December Goduka)
- 22 reserve staff with 4 Groen Sebenza incubants
- 5 NMBM Environmental Education Officers

WESSA, CREW and the BVPT will continue to support the BVCP and NMB MOSS, albeit in a reduced capacity and as funding allows.

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

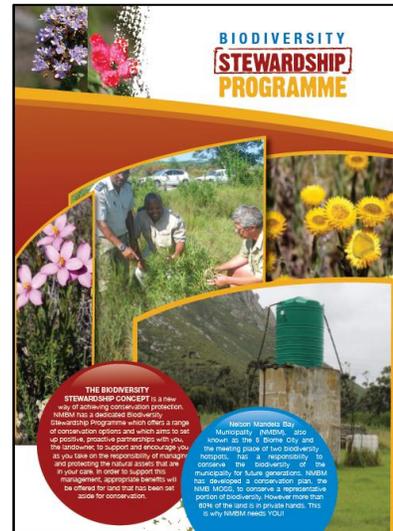
NMBM Biodiversity Stewardship Programme is supported through developing civil-society capacity building.

Component 2 Actual at Completion:

As discussed above, this component changed to become that of NMB MOSS Coordination. This aimed to facilitate proclamation of NMB Bioregional Plan and NMBM Council approval of the Environmental Management Framework, and the consolidation and/or rezonings of municipal land parcels to conserve Critical Biodiversity areas. These are all lengthy processes, and were expected to last beyond the NMBUCP duration. What has been achieved is that the Bioregional Plan is in process of being gazetted by provincial government minister (MEC), and the EMF, which will limit developments options in areas identified as CBAs or conservation areas, is going before the NMBM Council for approval. Weatherall-Thomas has prepared the reserve proclamations with consolidations, with his successor Makaka finalising the re-surveying of the cadastral boundaries, prior to submission to the NMBM Council and later to the MEC for proclamation.

Under the NMB BSP component the following were produced:

- Stewardship information brochures
- Site Assessment methodology and template
- Generic stewardship agreement
- Generic EMP (draft, as it could not be tested on a landowner)
- CREW and NMBM staff plant taxonomy training events
- CREW signboards and assessment fieldguides produced



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

Civil society is capacitated to strengthen the conservation management of critically endangered Baakens Valley habitats, ecological process areas, ecological corridors and species of special concern.

Component 3 Actual at Completion:

3.1 Adopt-A-Plot Groups: This initiative had limited success. Perceptions around crime have persisted, discouraging public involvement. The BVCP has also struggled to find effective, charismatic AAPlot leaders that are crucial for AAPlot persistence and effectiveness. The lack of success in creating AAPlot groups does need to be seen against the national backdrop of falling NGO membership and public volunteerism! That said, we had one very active group, the Baakens Buddies that have already been described above. There were three other groups, the Frewen Group which met only a few times; the BVPT conducted many AIP hacks and clean-ups; while the FatTracks MTBike Club helped to maintain paths that their members regularly utilised, as well as helping to raise funds through events for AIP clearing to improve visibility and security. There were many individuals who conducted AIP hacks along the valley, mostly to clear fire-breaks affecting their neighbouring properties. The BVCP offered training, and sometimes equipment to these groups and persons, in order to safeguard the biodiversity of the reserve. A new partnership with the President's Award Programme and Scout Groups in NMBay in 2014 will hopefully see two or three more AAPlot groups develop.

3.2 Baakens Valley Safety Plan: A permanent security presence is critical in safeguarding the public accessing the Baakens Valley and in encouraging their increased involvement. We simply had to improve security before anyone would venture back into the Baakens Valley. The BVCP has 5 Baakens Valley Rangers that patrol the valley each day and act visible security and conservation management, guide and/or guard education groups and tourist visitors and assist with staging events. It has been very hard work for WESSA to obtain and retain funding for the BVRangers, as it is seen as a municipal function. But five rangers are not enough to cover the whole area. We developed working partnerships with the SA Police Service, anti-crime organisations and local security companies ADT and Atlas to create fast reaction responses, monitoring of access points and sharing of information to drive the criminals out. The BVCP Team is represented at the monthly Group Level Operational Coordinating Committees (GOCOC) Safety and Security Forum, a regional anti-crime and intelligence sharing network. Our BVRangers' work roster and crime intelligence reports are shared with partners. ADT has placed electronic monitoring sensors at many exit paths from residential areas into the Valley, which has radically reduced muggings and house robberies bordering the Valley. We have also cleared alien vegetation along paths and picnic areas to improve their security. This work was undertaken as job creation projects that were sponsored by various corporates; such as Lion Roars, Coca-Cola Fortune and the Little Walmer Golf Club.

BVRangers conducted joint patrols against muggers with the SAPS Mounted Unit



Despite the occasional mugging, crime has been drastically reduced by the rangers. This has helped to rebuild public confidence in accessing the valley in safety. The Baakens Valley User surveys have tracked that people are now feeling much safer in the Baakens Valley, with increased visitor and event numbers, as well as repeat visits, supporting this perception.

A Safety Plan has been developed and will be presented at the February Champions Forum (Baakens valley Stakeholders Workshop). As part of this plan, we developed a Baakens Valley safety and access map, which we provided to our security partners to improve their emergency reaction times. This has been borne out through more rapid response times to incidents. This map has also unintentionally benefitted the various SAPS precincts along the Valley, which surprisingly were trying to function without having street maps for their station precincts. The BVCP Team will continue to serve on the GOCOC over 2014.

3.3 Funding Plan is part of Safety Plan: The risk to being able to successfully implement the BVCP without rangers in the valley has temporarily nullified by Coca-Cola Fortune Company having agreed to sponsor, through WESSA, the rangers for a third year (Feb 2014-Jan 2015), with the option for a fourth year (2015-2016). Our ranger funding plan within the Safety and Security Plan (Baakens Valley Walk Safe Programme) calls for NMBM to absorb BVRangers from 2016, if the proposed botanical garden concession has not developed. The NMBM has called for public-private partnership proposals to upgrade and manage the Baakens Valley. The call requires the Concessionaire to absorb and extend BVRangers force.

3.4 Baakens valley Management Plan: The BVCP developed this plan, called the Reserve Operational Management Plan (ROMP) in December 2013. It's implementation philosophy is based on the community-based conservation model the BVCP has been testing. It will be updated in March 2014 with the new budget data for the NMBM's new financial year starting in July.

3.5 Maintenance of Baakens Valley Municipal infrastructure: The BVCP surveyed the infrastructure over late 2011 and early 2012. Much of this infrastructure, roads, paths and bridges, was badly damaged in the October-November 2012 floods. Some funds were sourced from National government to repair flood damage and undertake an EIA for the upgrading of bridges and fords along the river (critical infrastructure). This process is on-going. We are in the final stages of erecting new signage along the length of the valley, to improve visitor access, behaviour and safety.

The Settlers Park section has undergone significant landscaping improvements, along with a permanent concert stage being built. Metal theft and vandalism remains a key problem retarding our progress to upgrade the facilities in the valley.



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

A community development process is undertaken to capacitate the community in terms of the biodiversity management of the valley, and provide skills development, job creation and educational and awareness opportunities.

Component 4 Actual at Completion:

4.1 Community Development Process: In early June 2011 we staged the Baakens Valley Visioning Exercise workshop, which aimed at broadening stakeholder consultation and the drawing in of political support for the BVCP. The workshop drew 60 persons, representing the many varied stakeholders of the BVRP: individuals, groups, government and municipal agencies. Unfortunately the politicians failed to arrive, but the workshop provided a fantastic networking session amongst the stakeholders, and helped elucidate some ideas and the Vision statement for taking the BVCP forward. The scan of the 2x2m artwork (right) is that the participants created on the day, as part of the workshop creative-thinking process. This workshop then helped guide the delivery of the BVCP component.



The BVCP now has a stronger focus on building capacity and partnerships between municipal officials and civil society. It has aimed to broaden the social, economic and political relevance of nature conservation, with an emphasis on creating access for local disadvantaged communities to unlocked resources within the valley. Our management team has included a social development consultant, Therese Boule, to help guide our community engagement practices. The WESSA-NMBM partnership drew in more civil partners, such as the 25-year old Baakens Valley Preservation Trust, the Walmer Youth Development Forum and various church, community and recreational groups to achieve our goals. Goduka and Boule started up a community development engagement process with township youth and councillors, particularly to encourage their participation in the BVCP, through understanding and engaging with their needs and expectations. Understandably, these largely focussed on job creation opportunities. The BVCP created as many jobs as it could through its own funding and co-funding, but these have been limited. Since the BVCP did not want to entice participation through giving of hand-outs or paying for volunteerism (an unsustainable and socially questionable practise), invitations to township residents to participate in events, such as walks and training events, attracted little participation. This is understandable against the situation of hunger and unemployment. Workshops elucidated that township residents also feared walking in the Valley bush, due to perceptions about animal and criminal attack, as well as a marginal social practice of recreating in urban greenbelts.

The proposed Skills Development and Job Creation Committee did not work as a stand-alone implementation tool. The work of the committee was however dealt with under the bi-monthly BVCP Team planning meetings, where job creation and training opportunities were identified and arranged. The BVCP made a big effort to steer all supply and job opportunities towards the Walmer Township residents, to show economic benefits from biodiversity conservation to the councillors, and to support the growth of township enterprises and skills base. These included inviting township youth and tour operators to participate in media training, BVPT walk leaders in the BVRangers guiding, ecological

and self-defence training, and inviting and assisting township SMEs to tender for AIP clearing and other jobs, such as erecting the new signage along the valley. We deliberately managed these projects in such a way as to provide skills training and project management experience for youths, so that they can develop their own SMMEs. These opportunities also brought diverse partners together across the social and business spectrum, with benefits highlighted in the adjacent newspaper clipping. We also invited some of these groups to be part of the annual Christmas and Freedom Day concerts hosted by this programme, a continuation from the Baakens Valley pilot programmes. This so they could gain skills and experience, with a view that they could take these event over as they own fund-raising and internal training events. We feel that this was a strong programme empowerment and capacitation mechanism.



CLEAN-UP: Ubuntu Environment Trust's Rev Zolile Dayimani (pictured) and founder Moki Cekisani head a team from Walmer Township helping to clear alien brush in the Baakens Valley Picture: EUGENE COETZEE

Twigging on to conservation

Shared vision brings diverse groups together

The BVCP Team will continue to support the community development and job creation opportunities for township youth in 2014.



4.2 Working Groups & Champions Forum:

The BVCP Team developed a number of loose working groups involving strategic partners, especially security partners and the NMBM Sewerage Infrastructure Directorate, to deal with crime and infrastructure problems (e.g. illegal dumping sewage spills into the Baakens River). The established partnerships have provided for reduced response times to issues and calls for further cooperation. Reduction and turnover of staff at the NMBM and NMB Tourism have required continual renewing and enhancement of these institutional relations.

Other working groups centred around promoting tourism, and events and activities, with charismatic 'champions' asked to lead some of these groups. We struggled to develop a truly functioning Champions system, whereby champions liaise with groups and members. The BVCP team had to largely carry this responsibility. We did find that the Champions Forums, gathering of



these nominal champions and other stakeholders, to be useful events. They particularly evidenced for the stakeholders the myriad interventions that were taking place and how their efforts were contributing to a larger effort to rejuvenate the Baakens Valley. They were also very useful networking and peer-learning events. And we made them fun to participate in! We were unable to host our final Forum of 2013 due to the events of Nelson Mandela's funeral in December, but it is going ahead on February 2014.

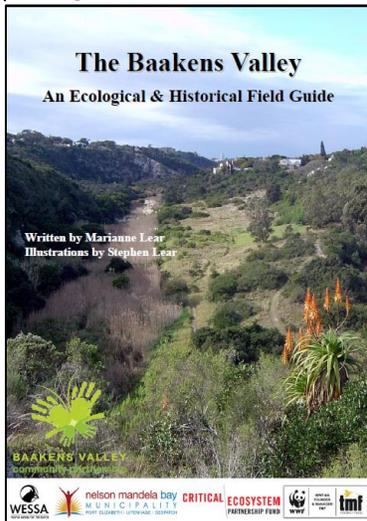
4.3 Stakeholder database:

Our database has been maintained across the period of the programme. We also created a BVCP FaceBook page ([www.facebook.com\Baakens Valley Community Partnership](http://www.facebook.com/BaakensValleyCommunityPartnership)) as a communication tool with our stakeholders. It has its own database of supporters (likes). While it does take time to manage, this FaceBook facility has proven very useful in gaining support and providing feedback.

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

The tourism potential of the Baakens Valley is explored for opportunities that stimulate the recreational use of the BV and biodiversity economies.

Component 5 Actual at Completion:



5.1 Tourism Plan: A plan has been developed, which needs to be presented at the forthcoming Champions Forum. We up-dated the Baakens Valley fieldguide, which is used to promote tourism in the valley. The NMBTourism Office has been promoting this at its tourism information bureaus in the city. The activities happening in the Valley, whether arranged by the BVCP, its partner or external parties are advertised on the BVCP FaceBook site and the NMBTourism websites. We were also trying to develop a self-guided heritage/tourism trail in the Valley, but this has had to be put on hold until the damaged roads and various vandalised cultural monuments are repaired. We will be engaging with the local and provincial tourism and museum bodies to repair, upgrade and promote them.

There has been an increase in tour operators bringing small groups of tourists to Settlers Park, as its safety and the flowerhouse's (wildflower display area) reputation have improved. These operators have been engaged with in order to encourage more tours and to offer BVRangers assistance with these tours. Birding tourism remains the most popular. We invited a fledging Walmer Township SME tour operator, who wanted to undertake activities in the BV, to participate in the media training event, by way of assisting her venture.

5.2 Staff Capacitation:

Two Baakens Reserve staff supervisors were taken with Scott and Griffiths on a peer-learning trip to the famed Kirstenbosch botanical gardens in Cape Town, where they had discussions with Kirstenbosch staff on how to upgrade the Settlers Park section of the BV. This led to a follow-up session when the Kirstenbosch staff visited the Valley. This led to a marked improvement in the productivity and morale of the NMBM staff and the upgrading of the landscaping of Settlers Park (The most popular and well-utilised section of the Baakens Valley).

BVRangers have been trained in bird-guiding, tree identification, river ecology, new arrest procedures, self-defence, guiding of school groups, photography, personal management and stress counselling; all in order to improve their guiding competence. They have also received guiding training through the Pride Programme of the WF-SA, and last year attended the 3-week long Spirit of the Wild Course, which aimed to teach them how to instil an appreciation for the spiritual or metaphysical aspects of nature with visitors. In all cases we invited rangers from other NMBM reserves and local conservancies to spread this training benefit. As already indicated, NGO partners were also invited to benefit from these training events.



Local ornithologist and birding tour guide, Dr Paul Martin, teaching the BV and Swartkops Rangers on how to specifically guide birding tourists.

We intend taking some NMBM staff to the Durban Botanical gardens in March 2014, to get similar benefits to the Kirstenbosch peer-learning trip. Further ranger training is planned in the first quarter of 2014: financial planning, succulent identification and fish research.

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

The value of the BV as an environmental education (EE) and recreational resource is strengthened and communicated.

Component 6 Actual at Completion:

6.1 Schools Environmental Education Programme:

In all of 2009, just six schools were prepared to risk the pupils on fieldstudies in the valley. This has grown exponentially to 43 over 2013! Many were arranged by the BVCP members, either funded through this or other independent programmes; or were independently arranged and conducted by the schools. As a consequence of the improved safety in the valley, three organisations besides WESSA, NMBM and the BVPT are now independently hosting EE/field studies in the valley. Most of these lessons are centred on the river and wetlands, teaching citizen science methodology, but also include plant, insects, social issues and forests lessons.



Due to the curriculum requirements and other school activities, we have not been able to get schools to join the AAPlot project as initially hoped. At least 4 school field trips are

planned in the first quarter of 2014, by WESSA through a corporate sponsor. More are being planned.

6.2 Promoting Public Involvement:

To encourage the residents of the city to utilise this beautiful valley, we first had to drive out the muggers! No mean feat when the 2000ha, 23km long valley is entirely surrounded by urban development and has no boundary fence. Great progress has, however, been made in securing the valley, as reported above.

To boost public use of the valley, we arranged and facilitated many school field trips (which would act to encourage the scholars parents to revise their perceptions of the valley), public walks and sporting events: done through a growing partnership base. As safety perceptions have improved, local residents have retaken to jogging, walking, biking and dog-walking in the valley. This has stimulated many large trail-running and biking races to be held in the valley: such as the Urban Run with 1400 runners and the PE2Plett Ride. We have seen the recorded visitor numbers climb from just 750 in 2009, to approximately 9000 this year (Estimated total visitors: 2000 in 2000, 20 000 in 2013). Many of these events have contributed funds or resources into the valley, such as the \$2 200 raised by the SOV Fun Run & Ride for AIP clearing (used to open up MTBike trails, and which we channelled in township youth job creation) and \$19 000 raised for equipping and paying the BVRangers, and the Trail run series sponsored \$1 500 worth of new Baakens signboards. These events are raised much publicity for the Baakens Valley, in the printed press, radio and local and national TV news. These have helped shift perceptions around the safety and value of the conservation estate.



The NMBUCP made many efforts to highlight our community-based conservation efforts to the media. We encourage partnerships with the media, to help tone down stories of muggings and to rather publish more good news stories in the events and job creation achievements of the programme. The media coverage we have received also acted as a marketing incentive for corporates when seeking donations or pro bono services at events.

6.3 Communication Plan:

The plan was developed and will continue to be used over 2014. As previously discussed the BVCP FaceBook page has proved to be a very effective marketing and communication tool to connect with our supporters, but it cannot replace the necessity for personal communications.



The BVCP flyers and banners were revised in 2013. An example of the new banners can be seen with NMBM Baakens Valley Community Conservation Officer December Goduka (far right) at an AIP clearing training event for Walmer township youth working on the Coca-Cola Fortune sponsored AIP clearing project. This project created 22 temporary jobs and cleared 35.5 hectares for fire prevention and security improvement. The media

publicity gained on this encouraged Coca-Cola Fortune to agree to a second, matching sponsorship in 2014!

The BVCP conducted a survey of Settlers Park users every six months since June 2009, in order to track trends in public use and perceptions of the Baakens Valley. Each survey was done over two days to improve statistical reliability. Unemployed youth were recruited to the survey work, creating job/learning experiences. Our analysis of the 6 years has revealed that:

- Users perceive the Baakens Valley to be safer than before
- Improved facilities were noted
- There is recognition of upgrades by new NMBM management team
- User demographics have broadened to include previously excluded groups
- Greater appreciation of the value of the Baakens Valley was expressed.

Our challenge remains to get NMBM Councillors to appreciate this progress, the value that companies and the public now see in the Baakens Valley and to invest into this conservation estate.



Urban Run 2013 participants braving the Baakens River crossing. The Urban Run has become an annual fixture and is an important money earner for the city

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

The effectiveness of these Urban Stewardship and Community-based conservation management models are reviewed.

Component 7 Actual at Completion:

7.1 Programme Efficiency Evaluated:

It was important for us to engage in reflexive learning approach to managing this programme. We designed in and undertook a mid-term independent review of our progress towards our objectives. This provided valuable feedback to us and helped us re-focus on some core issues, such as institutionalisation of community-based

conservation into the NMBM work ethos. The Champions Forums were also useful for encouraging the participants to reflect on achievements and how to advance on our goals. They also provided us with constructive feedback on our approach and emphasis, not just on reaching pre-determined goals.

The Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) evaluation was undertaken in early December 2013, and finalised in mid-January 2014. The METT tracks reserve management improvement over time. The Wilderness Foundation facilitated this evaluation, having also done so for the 2010 baseline evaluation. A very gratifying 7% increase in the management of the Baakens Valley was determined.

As explained above the User Survey mechanism was important for examining how public perceptions of our efforts were changing, if at all.

We held a team workshop in early December to evaluate what we lessons we have learnt out of managing this NMBUCP. Its findings were tabled in a report which has been used to develop this Completion Report.

As part of the programme staff human capacity development within our project management team, Griffiths also undertook a week-long project management course, to develop his capacity to manage large, multi-year, multi-partner programmes. His enhanced capacity can be used to support emerging NGOs such as the Zwartkops Conservancy, Baakens Valley Preservation Trust and the Cape Recife Conservancy, on emergency conservation issues in the NMBay region and beyond. Goduka has also been participating in two work-based accredited training courses, to improve his capacity as a community-based conservation officer. Other staff training activities have already been described above. The comments made in this regard in the second paragraph of *Section: Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion* are re-iterated.

7.2 Exit Strategy Defined:

This Exit Strategy is to be developed out of the Champions Forum to be held in February, as its deliberations and outcomes need to guide this strategy; in much the same way the June 2011 Visioning Workshop help create the objectives of the BVCP.

The BVCP will continuing over 2014, with some funds from forex gains made on the CEPF grant. WESSA has also gained a donation from the Coca-Cola Fortune company, to continue employing the BVRangers, to keep involved in the BVCP management and to lead about seven school fieldtrips to the Baakens Valley.

BVRanger Kennedy Mabanga showing scholars how to use the minSASS protocol for rapid assessment of river water quality



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

Baakens Valley Community Partnership Component

The death of Nelson Mandela in early December and the national 10 days of mourning affected government and civil society activities over the first two weeks of December. Nationwide, South Africans were involved in various memorial services, either participating directly or watching the major televised memorial and funeral services. In Nelson Mandela Bay (Port Elizabeth), there were a number of events that drew our staff, partners and supporters away from a number of meetings and workshops that had been planned to develop a number of reports by end of December. Immediately after the national funeral, the Christmas holiday season began (15 December – 13 January), which prevented us from re-scheduling these meetings until late January and early February. We trust that the CEPF appreciates the impact of the death of this iconic statesman on South Africans, and our programme; hence the delayed delivery on some of our final deliverables.

We have the opportunity to remedy this situation over January to March, when the BVCP will continue to be implemented, funded through gains made on the forex exchange on the CEPF initial grant.

The following activities were disrupted, with intended remedial actions:

- 1) This Completion Report, incorporating lessons learnt – to be submitted with the Performance Report on 30th January 2014.
- 2) Champions Forum – planned for early December, it has been rescheduled for 7th February.
- 3) Safety Plan - to have final workshop with security partners at the Champions Forum. A key component is the funding for the BVRangers, which has now been definitely secured for a further year, with indications for a 4th year as well. After that we are pressing for these rangers to be absorbed into the NMBM organogram, as a municipal function, either in the Baakens Reserve staff compliment or in the Metro Security Force currently being established.
- 4) New signage along Baakens Valley – expected to be completed by end of January (deposit paid, with final payment to be made).
- 5) Tourism Plan - to have final workshop with tourism partners at the Champions Forum.
- 6) Exit Plan - to be developed out of the Champions Forum and preparations in March for developing the 2014-2015 NMBM/Baakens Reserve budget.

CREW NMB MOSS Co-Ordination Programme

Due to external factors within the process of the Provincial Department of Environmental Affairs tasked with reserve, bioregional plans and EMFs gazetting, these mentioned products are still awaiting completion. We did expect these delays, but hope that they will be finalised by mid-2014. Weatherall-Thomas spent much time training the NMBM Groen Sebenza incubate, Lukhanyo Makaka, to take over the reins as the new NMBM MOSS officer/ecologist and drive these processes towards finalisation.

The unavailability of a sought-after succulent taxonomist in the last quarter of 2013, has meant that the last planned CREW training exercise for 2013 will now only take place in late February. The CREW NMB Branch will continue to get support from this programme until the end of March, to fund this and other training activities for these volunteers. Weatherall-Thomas, although no longer working for this programme, remains the Chair of the CREW NMB Branch.

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

NMBM Handbook for Stewardship Staff

Biodiversity Stewardship Landowner Negotiations Manual

NMBM Biodiversity Stewardship Framework and Implementation Plan

Baakens Walk Safe Safety & Security Plan

Baakens Valley Security and Access Map

Baakens Valley Fieldguide

Baakens Valley signboard (example)

Lessons Learnt Report

www.facebook.com\Baakens Valley Community Partnership

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.

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

The design team recognised that we were conservationists trained in the old ways, and that the programme needed social solutions to its conservation problems. We recognised a skills and experience gap within ourselves, and so strategically designed a social development consultant into our work team. It was also important that such a consultant be rooted in the local environmental and social fabric – being an insider and not an outsider. We found this in Therese Boule. Having her expertise helped us reframe our implementation methods and approach, allowing us to achieve faster connections and understanding of the social complexities aiding or hindering our progress. We can certainly recommend such an appointment to similar programmes.

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

The pilot projects to this programme had WESSA and NMBM working together, but loosely so. This programme required much closer cooperation, although we didn't set up a joint office. Later we were joined by BVPT members. In such a situation, the tensions between very different work cultures and enthusies had be worked through and a new working paradigm developed, without sacrificing individual identities and differences that added value to the mix. We came through this process stronger because of an earnest desire to work together as a unified team, to pool our skills and resources and to accommodate our differences. The appointment of Clyde Scott as the dynamic new NMBM BV Manager was a significant boost to overcoming various hindrances towards our goals.



Clyde Scott (at left) providing hands-on management at a community hack event held outside of NMBM operating hours

The appointment of committed, trained staff who are prepared to work outside of traditional parameters is crucial to this type of programme. The poor work ethic of older NMBM staff with fixed mind-sets and some with a propensity to ill-discipline, coupled with severe union interference, created a difficult situation for change management. Commitment towards achieving the new vision for the Valley required a new working paradigm among staff, and this took much effort to achieve. It had to be done in big consultative ways, but just as important was the daily reframing of what and how things needed to be done. The lack of reliable internet and email communications at the NMBM Baakens Valley office led to too many delays in servicing the programme. It also meant that the NMBM Baakens Valley staff have not been able to fully engage with and take ownership of the BVCP communications portals, hampering the sustainability processes. It is understandable if the public struggle to see the NMBM as being the lead agent, when most public communications come from the NGO partners.

Peer-to-peer and exchange visit learning experiences are more valuable than the cost of staging them. They can lead to significant staff morale boosts, as staff see how their



experiential learning is valuable to others and encourages them in turn to take a more thoughtful and learning-centred view of their own work. It instils pride in a strong work ethic and generates a supportive and consultative network that creates ripples of opportunities for the programme and staff development.

Rangers from different reserves and conservancies getting to know each other at a low-ropes course, part of an introductory peer-learning event.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

Municipal institutionalisation goals are extremely difficult to achieve when they intersect with an unstable local political climate. The positive efforts of a few committed municipal staff can be easily overshadowed and dampened by organisational instability, especially in the security of budget allocations towards conservation needs. Unless you can find significant political relevance in conservation work, even if this conservation work is really addressing social issues, there is likely to be little political support; and with that, little budget improvements for managing public open spaces. This is particularly relevant in a situation of severe political instability.

The intention of the NMBUCVP was for the NMBM to be fully capacitated to manage the Baakens Valley, including staffing arrangements and co-operation across municipal silos. Developing relationships across municipal silos takes time, effort and regular engagement, but the new relationships have proven that they can really benefit the overall management. This has been evidenced with the direct liaison with the Sewerage Infrastructure Directorate, in how they now are prepared to make rapid responses to sewage spills in the Valley. In turn our Rangers monitor the sewerage lines and pumpstations for vandalism and breakdowns that would result in spills.

The BVRangers should be a municipal staff unit, and its persistence as a WESSA staff unit, has created management complexity and inefficiencies, prevented equitable working conditions for the rangers when compared to NMBM staff and placed a heavy burden on WESSA to find funding for the rangers salaries on an annual basis. It also creates public confusion. The lack of certainty around the persistence of funding, due to allocation of CSI spend of sponsors on only an annual basis, has limited the effective long term management planning for the valley which needs to include the cohort of



BVRangers. Other community-based conservation programmes need to be careful in taking on such staffing arrangements. We remain highly appreciative of the donations from Coca-Cola Fortune for employing the BVRangers from 2010 until 2015.

Having a well-trained, multi-skilled cohort of rangers has been crucial to the success of this project; but has comes with its own set of management challenges for the co-managing organisations.

Bad news travels exceeding fast on modern social networks, quickly under-mining years of hard gains. We learnt this at hard cost when criminal attacks on walkers or MTBikers after even year-long periods without incident, quickly negated the gains in positive perception around the valley. The lesson was for us was to be able to quickly respond to bad press, to engage directly with incidents, publically demonstrate remedial or responsive actions and counteract the bad press with information on positive gains made. It is crucial to remain transparent and responsible about visitor safety. Having good relationships with the local reporters helped mitigate against sensationalistic news items, in that reporters knew who to contact for responses or opposing comments.

The BVCP aimed to secure greater support from and involvement by local township residents, as part of a community-building approach. Workshops were held to understand township residents' needs and aspiration regarding the Baakens Valley, which largely focussed on job creation. Workshops elucidated that township residents also feared walking in the Valley bush, due to perceptions about animal and criminal attack, as well as a marginal social practice of recreating in urban greenbelts. Since the BVCP did not want to entice participation through giving of hand-outs or paying for volunteerism (an unsustainable and socially questionable practise), invitations to township residents to participate in events, such as walks and training events, attracted little participation. This is understandable against the real situation of hunger and widespread unemployment. Volunteerism has also been corrupted by government 'volunteer' programmes that have paid stipends – in that now many people assume that as 'volunteers' they should be paid in some way. This can cause problems when activities call on (non-paid) volunteers to participate, and can lead to severe disappointments. This requires careful expectation management.

We adopted the reference point of seeking job creation, community building, promoting equity and skills transfer in all our activities; in order to show social and political relevance. We used events as an empowerment tool: in arranging events such as the Carols Concerts and Freedom Day Concert/Picnics, we involved the township community groups in the planning sessions. This was done to give them the opportunity to learn how to stage large events, with the view that they took the events over as their own events, possibly even as a fund-raising event for themselves. Having this specific mind-set allowed us to find more opportunities to showcase the value of conserving urban CBAs. Despite making many training opportunities available to the youth and SMMEs, the participation rate was lower than expected, sometimes because they could not afford to travel to the training venues. Thus arrangements also had to include the provision of transport which requires extra cost and effort. In working with poor groups, who have significant poverty and education constraints, it is imperative to be mindful of their mind-sets and how it influences their engagement with the programme and other participants (and vice versa). They may need concentrated assistance, to help drive



progress. But the project can also draw on their energy and creativity including their different ways at looking at problem solving. Creating support mechanisms that are not sustainable beyond the funded period of the project needs to be avoided, unless these mechanisms are not intended to persist beyond the programme.

BVRanger Luvuyo Cotsheni advising AIP clearing trainees how to manage themselves and their work practices within a nature reserve.

Community and political engagement processes require a great deal of planning, understanding and co-ordination. Expectations need to be understood and managed. Capacity building that is required should not be underestimated. Furthermore, the interests of parties may vary significantly in the way they perceive the need for the conservation/exploitation of nature reserves and public open spaces - in this case the entire Baakens Valley. Given the pressing need for job creation and poverty alleviation, more resources need to be allocated by the NMBM to the Valley to create the tourism and security infrastructure necessary to develop it into a secure “must visit attraction” and an income generating and job creating entity. It is an asset to the city that has not yet been fully realised. It is hoped that the current NMBM tender process aimed at appointing a Concessionaire to develop the Valley will reach fruition. The effectiveness of local government in managing this asset and supporting local community groups to use the Valley is crucial to the sustainability of the valley’s unique ecosystem and maintenance of the BVCP. Greater political support for the Valley’s future is also critical going forward.

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
WESSA-EP Region	A	35 563	Use of office space and WESSA Resources
NMBM	A	109 787	Use of
CREW	A	12 562	
SAPS	A	Can't quantify	Horse and foot crime-prevention patrols in the Baakens Valley
Adopt-a-plot groups	A	Can't quantify	volunteer efforts
Lion Roars Foundation	A	1 778	AIP Clearing Donation
Sunridge Residents	A	1 587	AIP Clearing Donation
Little Walmer Golf Estate	B	1 429	AIP Clearing Contract
Lion Roars, Dynamic Commodities & Canon EC	B	19 048	Baakens Valley Rangers Donation
Baakens Valley Rangers - Coca-Cola Fortune	B	150 159	Baakens Valley Rangers Donation
SOV Event 2012	A	1 460	Entry fees, donated to AIP clearing
Coca-Cola Fortune	B	15 873	AIP Clearing donation
Working for Water Programme	A	3 016	Donation of herbicide
Signature Trails	A	1 571	Entry fees, donated for signboard manufacturing
NMM University	A	6 349	Fish Study
WF-SA	A	1 111	Pro-bono developing ROMP
WF-SA	A	1 571	Pro-bono developing METT
BOTSOC & SANBI	A	Can't quantify	Advice to Stewardship programme
ECPTA	A	Can't quantify	Advice to Stewardship programme
Total monetary value		\$360 853	

****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.)*
- 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.

As for the sustainability of the BVCP, the NMBM will continue to promote community-based conservation of the Baakens Valley. The new NMBM Baakens Reserve manager, with his team, is making great strides under extremely difficult budget and personnel constraints, to improve the priority areas of the reserve for public use and biodiversity management. WESSA's continued involvement in the BVCP has been secured by Coca-Cola Fortune agreeing to fund a third year of the national Water Security Programme with WESSA. Under this programme umbrella, is the Baakens RiverWise Project, which will fund the rangers, a number of environmental education activities and an additional AIP clearing component. The Baakens Valley Preservation Trust has also experienced a resurgence in members and activities; and will continue to be part of and support the BVCP; as will other groups such as Birdlife Eastern Cape and the Wilderness Foundation. We plan to develop a practical sustainability plan at the up-coming Champions Forum.



BAAKENS VALLEY
community partnership

BVCP Co-manager Morgan Griffiths (WESA) will continue to support community efforts to conserve the Baakens Valley, such as this home school group wanting to learn about biological control measures employed in the valley.



Helping us to carry forward the gains made by this programme are seven SANBI Groen Sebenza incubants (interns) placed with WESSA (environmental educators) and the NMBM (environmental educators, horticulturalists and field-workers). The addition of these incubants provides much needed extra hands for our current improvement projects and for potential for growth in new projects, community-based activities and staff capacitation. These incubants will contribute up to the end of December 2015, and may then be taken into employment by their respective hosting organisations.

We have developed and strengthened a well of local human capacity and talent to sustain community-based conservation efforts across the Port Elizabeth Complex and beyond. We hold that we have advanced the underlying objective of the MPAH Programme in capacity building for community-based conservation, whereby local communities and conservation managers have learnt how to work together to protect and sustainably utilise our biodiversity resources. We have developed the capacity to sustain this type of approach over the long-term. We have encouraged people to care for our Earth!

Heroes of the day



**MANDELA BAY MUNICIPALITY
AND THE WILDLIFE AND
ENVIRONMENT SOCIETY OF SA**

FOR years, one of the city's green lungs, the Baakens Valley, has been an unpleasant and unsafe place to go despite it being such a scenic green lung. We are so glad efforts are being made to make it safer.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

None

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

We have been very carefully working with the identified AIP clearing community contractors, to develop contracts and training programmes that will limit risk in the implementation of these projects. Three AIP clearing project teams cleared 35.5 ha, mostly to increase visibility along trails and as firebreaks. The clearing was sponsored by Coca-Cola Fortune under their funded National Water Security Programme with WESSA. The teams were required to be selected from amongst the Walmer youth, with at least 30% being women. We structured the contracting, training and contract management to include a deliberate learning agenda, which will allow these small-scale contractors to gain the sort of contractual experience that will enable them to tender for much bigger projects in the future. Similarly we took care to train community, AAPlot and individuals in the correct techniques of AIP clearing, particularly with the use of herbicides (approved under this programme). We were fortunate to receive a large donation of herbicides from the National Working for Wetlands Programme, for alien clearing in the value.

Members of the BVCP Team met with World Bank representative, Paula Lytle, and National MPAH Programme Manager, Roelie Kloppers with regard to the removal of homeless people trespassing in the Valley and the harvesting of biodiversity resources from the reserve. A number of concerns were raised, interpretations of cultural perceptions and different terminologies discussed, and municipal processes with regards to homeless people removals, evictions and the permitting of plant harvesters explained. Ideas for improving social interactions between the reserve staff and the homeless people were discussed. We are in the process of developing these ideas further as part of the on-going efforts by the BVCP.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

The members of the NMBUCP team would like to thank the CEPF for the funds that have allowed us to create so many social and conservation benefits to the citizens of Nelson Mandela Bay.

We also thank the many contributing partner organisations and individuals that have given so much towards making the Baakens Valley a safe community resource and functional ecological corridor, by strengthening community participation and affording socio-economic opportunities to those that need it most.



Each challenge we have encountered and gain achieved has been a stepping stone towards fostering a civil society that understands and appreciates the environment that supports us; not just for its monetary values but also for the deeper peace in creates within us.

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:

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*****If your grant has an end date other than JUNE 30, please complete the tables on the following pages*****



“Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world”

- Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, 1918-2013

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 July 1, 2013 to May 30, 2013. (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	2000	2000	During this last period, this programme developed a plan for the Baakens Valley Reserve,
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	No			Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
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	2000		The BVCP has been strengthening the management of the Baakens Valley, as well as lending assistance to other conservation areas such as the Cape Recife Conservancy and other Friends Groups helping to protect CBAs and corridors in Nelson Mandel Complex.
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Yes	195412		This programme has assisted in the final approval and gazetting of the NMB Bioregional Plan and Environmental Management Framework, which both serve to protect the CBAs within this Nelson Mandela Bay area.
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			The Baakens Valley Reserve manager granted a few permits, within a management regime, to indigenous local persons to harvest flowers, medicinal plants, reeds (for cultural practices) and firewood from IAPs, for short, discrete harvesting episodes – nothing of a substantive nature or tangible socioeconomic benefit

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table

