

SUBREGION NAMIBIA SUMMARY REPORT 2003-2004

**"THE RICHEST SOIL, UNCULTIVATED, PRODUCES THE
RANKEST WEEDS"**

- PLUTARCH.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of the process and outcomes of the first phase of the implementation and project design in the SKEP sub regional office of Namibia.

The major part of the Namibia's Succulent Karoo is in the access-restricted Sperrgebiet. Due to high plant diversity and a high level of endemism the Sperrgebiet is the sub region's geographic priority area. Land use pressures in the Sperrgebiet are at present largely restricted to mining. Land use pressures in the remaining Succulent Karoo in Namibia also include farming, mining and to a lesser extent resource use and recreational activities (firewood and plant collecting, hunting, etc).

During 2003 and 2004 staff of the SKEP coordination unit in Namibia received intensive training to develop their skills in coordination, participatory approaches and conservation-related activities. Training workshops and short training courses provided by Conservation International and the Botanical Society of South Africa were attended in Cape Town and throughout the region. In January 2003 an office was established at Keetmanshoop and many of the key stakeholders were contacted and informed about SKEP through presentations and meetings throughout the year. The SKEP office established a close relationship particularly with the Karas Regional Council and the Department of Agriculture's extension offices.

A workshop was held in Lüderitz with stakeholders in June 2003 to develop and prioritise activities in the areas adjoining the Sperrgebiet. Stakeholders were then invited to submit formal proposals. Out of 18 submitted proposals three were approved:

1. Mapping and awareness of large predators in Namibia's Succulent Karoo.
2. Southern Namib Restoration Ecology Information Package and
3. Development of material for the Aus Information Centre.

The table below shows a summary of SKEP-related events to date:

	Biome-wide	SKEP Namibia	Supplementary activities
September 2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concept development and planning 		
January 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information gathering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appointment of sub regional champions (Patrick Lane, MET) 	
March 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workshop to identify geographic and thematic priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sub regional coordination unit linked to Regional Council (Keetmanshoop) 	Sperrgebiet Conservation Planning Study

June 2002	▪ Action-planning workshop		(Global Conservation Fund)
July 2002		▪ Action planning workshop (Keetmanshoop)	
December 2002			
January 2003	▪ SKEP 20-year strategy	▪ SKEP sub regional office established in Keetmanshoop	
April 2003	▪ CEPF funding secured for 5-year implementation programme	▪ Re-structuring of sub regional coordination unit	
June 2003		▪ Buffer zone workshop (Lüderitz)	
December 2004		▪ SKEP office relocated to NNF	
March 2005		▪ SKEP Namibia information workshop	
May 2005		▪ Launch of re-structured SKEP Namibia programme	

List of acronyms

CEPF	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
CI	Conservation International
SKEP	Succulent Karoo Ecosystem Programme
SK	Succulent Karoo
NNF	Namibia Nature Foundation
NADEET	Namibia Desert Environmental Trust
MET	Ministry of Environment and Tourism
KRC	Karas Regional Council
MAWRD	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development
MFMR	Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
MET	Ministry of Environment and Tourism
MME	Ministry of Mines and Energy
MRLGH	Ministry of Regional, Local Government and Housing
MTI	Ministry of Trade and Industry
LOI	Letter of Inquiry

PRESSURES ON BIODIVERSITY

Only 3.5 percent of the SKEP planning region (spanning South Africa and southern Namibia) is formally protected in conservation areas. Most of the region, an estimated 100000 km², is used as communal or commercial grazing. Although this land use can be compatible with maintaining biodiversity, overgrazing has severely degraded nearly two thirds of this area. The recent expansion of the ostrich farming industry has devastated large parts of the Little Karoo and is likely to pose a greater threat in the future. Mining and agricultural activities along corridors have also had a significant impact on the region and are likely to expand in the future. Succulent species are highly prized by collectors and are threatened by illegal collection and trade. Invasive alien species pose yet another threat to many areas of the Succulent Karoo.

Only 300 000km² of the Succulent Karoo (about 27 percent) exists in a relatively pristine state. Existing traditional conservation areas have become islands that do not include a range of climate and environmental conditions to allow plants and animals to move in response to seasonal and long- term climatic changes. This is particularly critical in the Succulent Karoo, where species are already experiencing the impact of human-induced climatic change. As a result of existing pressures, 936 plant species, 17 percent of the total that occur in the Succulent Karoo, are already threatened.

However, there are viable solutions that can maintain biodiversity while at the same time promoting sustainable development. SKEP is one of the forums to support finding these solutions.

OVERVIEW OF BIODIVERSITY IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF NAMIBIA

The Succulent Karoo Biome within the boundaries of Namibia falls into four basic land use classes:

- Protected areas;
- Commercial farming;
- Mining and
- Communal land.

The protected areas can further be divided into two groups. Formal proclaimed game parks, Ai-Ais Hot Springs Game Park (which includes the Fish River Canyon and the Huns Mountains) and the Sperrgebiet that has been out of bounds to most people in an effort to control the diamond deposits along the coast and the Orange River. A new visionary multi-sectorial approach to the proclamation of the Sperrgebiet is developed in conjunction with various other role players in the region, such as the mining sector. The process started with the production of the Sperrgebiet Land Use Plan in 2001, followed by a more detailed conservation planning study in 2002.

Commercial farming in the area is not entirely successful and a number of farms are uninhabited while the owners have to find work in the

towns. A number of these landowners are moving towards tourism in a hope to supplement their income. This leaves an opportunity for the protection of the Succulent Karoo on commercial land in the future.

Communal land is largely densely stocked with livestock and throughout most of the region overgrazing is evident. The Ministry of Environment and Tourism's (MET) conservancy programme is designed to assist the communities in upgrading their subsistence existence to a more sustainable land use by encouraging the protection and sustainable utilisation of natural resources in both a consumptive and non-consumptive manner. Community-based tourism is an important part of this programme. The conservancy programme is run in conjunction with the MET and various NGO's.

With the proclamation of the Sperrgebiet as a National Park, which was approved by cabinet on the 22 April 2004, and the formalisation of the Ai-Ais/Richtersveld Transfrontier Park, more than 3000 000ha of Succulent-Karoo fall within the protected areas in Namibia. As some commercial farmers move towards tourism land-use ventures and conservancy programmes are emerging there is large potential for protection and sustainable use of various portions of the Succulent Karoo within Namibia.

Numerous stakeholder workshops have been held, attended by specialists in a number of fields to give expert input into the planning of the SKEP Namibia planning domain, and the Sperrgebiet in particular.

Threats and pressures on the Succulent Karoo within the boundaries of Namibia include mining, grazing, infrastructure developments, poaching and illegal plant collecting.

THE SPERRGEBIET- A GEOGRAPHIC PRIORITY FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

In every sub region a priority area has been identified due to its vegetation type/ geographical outcomes during the planning phase. In the Sub Region Namibia, the Sperrgebiet has been identified as one of the nine geographic priority areas in the Succulent Karoo Ecosystem Programme – SKEP.

Background on Sperrgebiet

For almost a hundred years, a 26 000km² piece of land in south- western Namibia has been closed to the citizens of Namibia and the rest of the world. Following the discovery of Namibia's first diamond near Kolmanskop in 1908, sole prospecting and mining rights were granted over an area stretching from the Orange River, in the south to just north from Lüderitz (about 300km) and extending 100km inland from the coast. Although diamond mining was confined to narrow strips along the coast and Orange River, general public access to the entire public license area was prohibited except with a special permit.

Years of diamond related security has provided de facto preservation, and today the Sperrgebiet is a pristine desert wilderness throughout

much of its extent. Recently, large parts of the Sperrgebiet were de-proclaimed from exclusive diamond prospecting and mining licenses and the land have reverted to the status of un-proclaimed state land.

The Sperrgebiet lies within the Succulent Karoo Biome, which is globally recognised as an outstanding hotspot of unique biodiversity. Because of the fact that the area was off limits to most people and for so many years there have been very few scientific surveys. The SKEP project aims to rectify this situation, by identifying and prioritising conservation needs within the whole Succulent Karoo Biome, and in particular, in the Sperrgebiet.

The vast natural terrarium of the Sperrgebiet is of extraordinary high value in terms of biodiversity and tourism. The area forms one of the last major refuges for red data mammals. Over 1000 plant species occur in the area, of which some 130 species ($\pm 13\%$) are endemic to the Sperrgebiet. We expect this high plant endemism to be correlated with high insect endemism. More than nine lichen species, all highly fog-dependent, are found there. The area also has a fascinating and impressive fossil deposits dating from the Cretaceous period about 85 million years ago. On the 22nd April 2004, this area has been approved by cabinet to be declared as a National Park.

SKEP OVERVIEW

In a global effort to prioritise funding needs for areas of greatest importance for biodiversity conservation and experiencing the greatest threats, 25 global biodiversity hotspots were identified in 2000. The Succulent Karoo is one of these biodiversity hotspots.

During a biome-wide planning initiative involving stakeholders and specialists throughout the entire Succulent Karoo, SKEP obtained information and generated consensus among stakeholders for a holistic conservation and sustainable land use strategy for the Succulent Karoo. SKEP, which means "to serve" or "to create" in Afrikaans, and stands for "Succulent Karoo Ecosystem Plan", involved more than 60 scientific experts and 400 local stakeholders representing government, academia, non-governmental organisations, private sector and local communities in a unique approach to conservation planning.

The SKEP planning process was managed by a technical working group of Conservation International, the Botanical Society of South Africa, Eco-Africa Environmental Consultants, and the Institute for Plant Conservation, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Namibia, the National Botanical Institute of South Africa and the Terrestrial Ecology Research Unit of the University of Port Elizabeth. Additionally, local representatives for each sub-region, known as champions, and two special advisors participated in all decision-making.

The SKEP 20-year strategy is derived directly from the people living in the hotspot, confirmed and augmented by the scientific community and national and regional-level stakeholders through the SKEP process.

Over a one-year period identification and involvement of stakeholders, information gathering and analysis, and finally the planning of activities,

resulted in the SKEP 20-year strategy. At this point nine geographic priority areas were assigned, two of which – the Sperrgebiet, and parts of the Greater Richtersveld – fall into the SKEP Namibia planning domain.

SKEP adopted the overall vision that

"The people of the Succulent Karoo take ownership of and enjoy their unique living landscape in a way that maintains biodiversity and improves livelihoods now and into perpetuity."

On an operational level five co-ordination units were established, each responsible for a sub region.

These co-ordination units are:

- Southern Karoo, situated in Oudtshoorn.
- Hantam-Tanqua Roggeveld, situated in Calvinia
- Southern Namaqualand, situated in Bitterfontein
- Northern Namaqualand, situated in Steinkopf, and
- Namibia initially situated in Keetmanshoop.

A suite of activities took place to ensure that:

- awareness was raised about the Succulent Karoo as a hotspot;
- stakeholders were engaged in developing projects;
- the developed projects were in line with the SKEP strategy;
- SKEP was mainstreamed in the South African Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) and Spatial Development Frameworks (SDFs) as executed by local government;
- Support was given to project applicants,
- Relevant parties had the opportunity to review project proposals;
- Advisory committees were capacitated in order to understand their roles and responsibilities; and,
- All the sectors identified in the planning process had the opportunity to take part in the SKEP process.

All coordinators within their respective sub regions were tasked to facilitate the process of biodiversity conservation within the Succulent Karoo following the 20-year strategy. The Namibian coordination unit consisted of two people, Yvonne Adriaanse, the Coordinator, and Kauna Schroder, the Assistant.

Delays in the proclamation of the Sperrgebiet as a National Park, one of the pre-conditions for implementing SKEP activities in the Namibian geographic priority area, as well as two revisions and internal restructuring of the SKEP Namibia programme delayed the implementation of activities. However, during this period, the SKEP coordination unit received training in essential skills for project management and learned about biodiversity conservation issues in their sub regions.

In early 2005 the SKEP Namibia coordination unit was restructured and relocated to Windhoek in order to facilitate the effective implementation of the programme under the auspices of the Namibia Nature Foundation.

ACTIVITIES IN THE NAMIBIA SUBREGION 2003-2004

Specific activities during the period prior to the relocation to Windhoek are detailed below:

	Activities	Comments
SKEP coordinators are trained by CI and BOTSOC, and attended short courses	Training workshops were held in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sutherland (June 2003) • Calitzdorp (September 2003) and • Lüderitz (February 2004). • Port Nolloth (May 2004) 	Participan skills were tested in assisting other sub regions with their Action Planning workshops.
	All the coordinators received training in participian and presentation skills.	Presentations were given to stakeholders as part of general awareness raising.
Local stakeholders develop partnerships and submit CEPF project proposals that reflect the priorities identified in the 20-year strategy and Ecosystem Profile	Awareness raising through media resulted in meetings with stakeholders and proponents to ensure submission of quality project proposals to CEPF.	The local government (Karas Regional Council) has been involved in the SKEP Programme from the onset. Partnerships with some identified target groups have been established. The Lüderitz Town Council also supports programme and is interested to form partnerships with the tourism sector.

Stakeholder engagement		
Agriculture	The agricultural sector is one of the most committed stakeholders serving on the review panel. Some meetings were held with the agricultural department and invitations for workshops conducted by extension officers were extended to our office, which resulted in follow-up meetings.	There is no communal or commercial farming in the Sperrgebiet priority area. Developing a stewardship programme with regard to sustainable farming activities may, however, be applicable in the buffer area.
Mining	The Skorpion Zinc Mine is playing an important role on our stakeholder/advisory committee. Meetings took place focussing on information exchange on the Sperrgebiet and discussions regarding how to further develop a concept for the Sperrgebiet. Namdeb recently invited the SKEP Namibian team to serve on their Environmental Forum.	In this sub region, the mining industries are vital partners.
Education	Meetings are ongoing with the education department. This resulted in the submission of an LOI to develop learning material. This sector is starting to forge linkages with various Youth Development initiatives as a result of partnerships established through the SKEP process. As part of the learnership programme, farm schools will be targeted for awareness raising and possible project identification	In a recent workshop in Lüderitz, a request for training of teachers in environmental education was made by the education sector. We also envisage establishing environmental education clubs in schools in order to secure ongoing support from this sector. Namdeb is currently sponsoring some schools in the SK (Namibia) for clean-up campaigns and environmental awareness projects.
Police/justice	Partners have been identified, and informal meetings have been	Due to the Diamond Act, the

	held.	Namibian Police will be an important stakeholder in terms of access control to the Sperrgebiet.
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Aus Community Trust is developing the Aus Tourist Information Centre. The SKEP team assisted with the completion of the LOI. • Documents on the 20-year strategy document are exhibited and distributed at the Southern Tourist Information Centre in Keetmanshoop. • Links in the buffer area have been established and partnerships have been created between SKEP and the tourism sector. • Assistance with LOI's has been given and is ongoing. 	
Local and provincial government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing briefing sessions are given and are requested by local and regional government. • Assistance in LOI development with partners from the Town Council has been conducted and LOI's have been forwarded to CEPF as a result of these meetings and support. • Presentations to the Permanent Secretary of The Ministry of Environment and Tourism have been conducted. • Ongoing meetings with the MET are taking place. • Presentations to the newly elected Local Authorities have been scheduled. • NACOMA (Namib Coast Biodiversity Conservation and Management Programme) a programme concentrating on coastal projects has recently joint the SKEP stakeholders. • The SKEP team has been invited to serve on the National Biodiversity Task Force that is operating under the auspices of MET. • Presentations to the Lüderitz Town Council resulted to a LOI and partnership between other 	<p>In contrast to South Africa, Namibia has a centralised government and devolution of authority to the regional level is starting slowly, following a decentralisation strategy.</p> <p>NACOMA (Namib Coast Biodiversity Conservation and Management) supports the decentralisation process with activities in the conservation and sustainable development categories. This project will be an important partner for SKEP. The NACOMA project will operate under the auspices of the</p>

	<p>stakeholders identified. More presentations will be presented in order to achieve the SKEP's goals, especially in environmental education.</p>	<p>Regional Council and will take charge of biodiversity and conservation issues on a regional level.</p>
<p>Conservation</p>	<p>MET, NBRI, Raleigh International, EnviroScience and the Brown Hyena Project are some of the main players addressing biodiversity and conservation in the Sperrgebiet. Most of these parties are part of the Advisory Committee and review panel of SKEP.</p>	
<p>Awareness raising</p>	<p>An Environmental Education Initiative specifically for the Succulent Karoo has been proposed. Discussions on the way forward are under way between NNF and Nadeet (Namib Desert Environmental Education Trust).</p>	
<p>LOI development, submission, support</p>	<p>There has been interest in the development of LOI'S in the past two months. The submission of LOI's from stakeholders is satisfactory. The SKEP office provides support to both identifying and further developing project proposals.</p>	
<p>LOI reviews</p>	<p>The review process is satisfactory.</p>	
<p>Interaction with Steering Committee/Advisory Committee</p>	<p>Interaction with Steering Committee takes place on a regular basis. Steering committee members are part of the review committee for projects/LOI's.</p>	
<p>Sperrgebiet as a priority for Sub Region Namibia</p>	<p>The Namibian Cabinet has approved the proclamation of Sperrgebiet as a Multi Zone National Park. Meetings with Mines and Energy and members of the Sperrgebiet Interest group have been held.</p>	

Comment: Please explain – perhaps we have to put this a bit more diplomatically.

BUFFER ZONE WORKSHOP

Due to delays in the proclamation of the geographic priority area (the Sperrgebiet) as a National Park, possible conservation activities in the Namibian Succulent Karoo buffering the Sperrgebiet were discussed at a two-day workshop, 12-13 June 2003, in Lüderitz. This workshop focused on planning and guiding how the allocated funds for Namibia could be best utilised in the interest of biodiversity conservation over the next 5 years.

At this gathering, 48 stakeholders and biodiversity experts generated a suite of projects that could serve as a foundation for a five-year strategy for the Namibia SKEP Sub region. This is a summary of the projects as identified by the stakeholders.

A. Overall Evaluation

Assessment of Projects:

There were 22 projects identified at the workshop. They fell within 3 general themes. A process to prioritise and obtain an estimate of the cost of projects over a five-year period resulted in the following breakdown:

Estimated costs over five-year period:

Awareness Raising	\$ 445 000.00
Expanding Protected Areas	\$ 600 000.00
Eco-biodiversity	\$ 420 000.00

Based on the SKEP biodiversity targets identified for the Sperrgebiet priority area, the following is a ranking of the projects.

TOP PROJECTS:

1. Awareness Raising:

Various projects identified under the theme, Awareness Raising, with different activities and deliverables that has to be carried out.

Project Name	Priority	Responsible Agency Identified	Time Frame	Budget
Skills development programme to do effective awareness and community engagement	1	Lüderitz Municipality, STF office, youth groups, Karas Regional Youth Forum.	Year1- Year 5	\$ 55 000
Education and human resource	2	(NEEN) Namibian Environmental Education	Year 2- Year 4	\$ 30 000

development and training on biodiversity conservation in the SKH.		Network...Institute for Educational development, NAMDEB, Skorpion		
Assisting schools in establishing environmental club and providing on going support - learning and awareness support materials development (policy maker's education.	3	NEEN, Youth Development Officer, Ministry of Basic Education	Year 1- Year 5	\$ 80 000
Doing baseline research to and around opportunities to inform awareness drive	4	Desert Research Foundation, Namibia Development Trust	Year 1- Year 5	\$ 40 000
Base Line Study Mines	5	Research Departments of NAMDEB and Skorpion	Year 1	\$ 25 000
Capacity building amongst stake holders in securing future funding	6	NEEN, Regional youth Forum	Year 1- Year 5	\$ 50 000
Engaging local and mass media with reference to Namibia Succulent Karoo	7	Media agents, Hotels, Tourism agencies, STF Municipality, Libraries	Year 1, Year 3, Year 5	\$ 30 000
Setting up and creations of administration body to oversee awareness affects (monitoring and evaluating role and co-ordination activities)	8	SKEP Namibia, Karas Regional Council, Luderitz Municipality, NEEN	Year 1	\$ 10 000
Learning and Awareness	9		Year 1- Year 5	\$ 125 000

Suggested budget: \$ 445 000

Timeframe: 2003 – 2007

Activities proposed during action planning workshop as follows:

- Assisting schools in establishing and maintaining environmental clubs and providing ongoing awareness;
- Awareness in mining areas;
- Training of people to understand biodiversity entrepreneurship training for schools in eco-tourism Proposal writing;
- Incorporating conservation into school curriculum;
- Establish an information centre;
- Involvement from outside; and
- Monitoring and evaluation

Raising awareness of the uniqueness and value of the Sperrgebiet's biodiversity will be the single most effective action to take in order to promote the conservation of biodiversity.

The focus of all deliverables in this project should be on emphasising how critical the survival of biodiversity is of this area as well as on the value, existing and potential, that biodiversity have or potentially can have for the inhabitants of the priority area.

2. Expanding Protected Areas:

Various projects identified with different activities and deliverables that have to be carried out.

Project Name	Priority	Responsible Agency Identified	Time Frame	Budget
Land use Plan for entire SKEP region Namibia. (SKEP link up with the existent Land Use Plan of Sperrgebiet)	1	Surveyor General, EnviroScience, Asset Building System, Skorpion, MET, National Planning, Namibia Development Trust-NGO's, Farmers Union, Consultants Rosh Pinah, NAMDEB, Min. of Lands and Resettlement, Relevant Ministries, Min. of Fisheries, Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME)	Year 1- Year 4	\$ 250 000
Baseline Assessment & Research	2	EnviroScience Relevant Ministries	Year 1- Year 3	\$ 30 000
Management Activities	3	NGO's, Specialists, Fisheries	Year 1- Year 5	\$ 50 000

Research Activity/Rehabilitation	4	MME, MET, NAMDEB	Year1- Year 3	\$ 100 000
Fence Removal	5	Relevant Ministries, NGO's, Private Land Owners, Communal Land Owners	Year 1- Year 5	\$ 100 000
Deforestation	6	Karas Regional Council, MET, Informal Communal Settlement, Land resettlement, Rosh Pinah Environmental Forum	Year 1	\$ 10 000
Awareness	7	NGO's	Year 1- Year 3	\$ 30 000
Implementation capacity	8	NGO's	Year 1- Year 3	\$ 30 000

Suggested budget: \$ 600 000

Timeframe: 2003 - 2007

Activities as proposed during action planning workshop is as follow:

- **To design an Environmental sensitivity map or similar planning document for Sperrgebiet;**
- **To Expand environmental Baselines and Management Planning to buffer areas, and the Land Use Planning - SKEP Namibia to link it to the final Land Use Management Plan for Sperrgebiet;**
- **Set up a Joint Planning Forum to link up with existing structures and institutions;**
- **To carry out pre/post impact studies in mined areas (Flora & Fauna);**
- **Remove border fences between Park & free hold conservancies;**
- **To link up with Rosh Pinah Deforestation Projects;**
- **Raising community awareness on biodiversity importance; and,**
- **Capacity building training for communities.**

3. Eco-biodiversity

Various projects identified with different activities and deliverables that have to be carried out.

Project Name	Priority	Responsible Agency Identified	Time Frame	Budget

Education and /awareness capacity building training centre.	1	Central educational centre in Aus	Year 1- Year 5	\$ 65 000
Economic based Enterprises/ profit making	2	NGOs, Desert Research Foundation, NACOBTA, CBNRM	Year 1- Year 5	\$ 65 000
Research centre	3	Desert Research Foundation, NEEN	Year 1- Year 5	\$ 145 000
Networking and Coordination	4	SKEP Namibia, NEEN, NGO'S, Desert Research Foundation	Year 1- Year 3	\$ 30 000
Management Plan	5	Blou – Wes conservancy committee, Warmbad community (traditional authority), Berseba community (development committee), Luderitz community (Aunie-Luderitz Town Council), Bethanie community (traditional authority), Rosh Pinah and Oranjemund environmental centres, Namibia Natural Hentare Trust, Gondwana Park, Namibia Development Trust, CBNRM Core Group (Keetmanshoop) , Gamaseb Conservancy Committee, Klein Aus Vista, Southern Namibia Farmers Union, Aus	Year 1- Year 5	\$ 125 000

Suggested budget: \$ 430 000 Timeframe: 2003 - 2007

Activities proposed during action planning workshop as follows:

- **To set up an Education centre in order to ensure strong community involvement in biodiversity education and awareness;**
- **To set up Profit making centres that focus on hiking trails in Succulent Karoo guided tours, excursions in SK guided, historical site with tourist guide;**
- **To carry out research on economic valuable projects in the area for community benefits;**
- **SKEP Namibia should involve communities and identified social partners for effectiveness awareness raising, monitoring and evaluation of projects; and,**
- **Develop biodiversity management plan and identify sustainable development through projects link to Sperrgebiet Land Use Plan.**

TRACKING OF PROJECTS IN THE NAMIBIA SUBREGION

Based on the guidelines from the buffer zone workshop on the 13th June 2003 in Lüderitz, stakeholders submitted letters of enquiries (LOIs), which were forwarded to CEPF for evaluation. Three of these projects were approved, nine were rejected and some are still under review.

The following projects were submitted:

Project	Proponent	Status
Aus tourist information centre	Namibia Nature Foundation	approved
Predator atlas mapping/Brown hyena	Brown Hyena Project	approved
Southern Namib Restoration Ecology information package	EnviroScience	approved
Brown hyena satellite tracking project	Brown Hyena Project	
Promotion of ecotourism through education and awareness raising	South West Africa Wildlife and Research Institution	rejected
Botanical survey to access the biodiversity of the SWARPI in the Succulent Karoo priority area	South West Africa Wildlife and Research Institution	rejected
Integrated land use plan for Lüderitz	Stubenrauch Planning Consultants	rejected
Awareness raising and land degradation in communal areas	Southern Namibian Farmers Union	rejected
Kanabeam reserve	South West Africa Wildlife and Research Institution	rejected
Cable care project	Nel Namref	rejected
Caracal research project in canyon area	Michael Papendick	rejected
Khaibasen integration conservation ecosystem and sustained Succulent Karoo	Abraham Christian	rejected
Succulents of the Sperrgebiet (video)	Gene Carstens	rejected
Economic based enterprise and profit making and integration of SKEP activities	NACOBTA	rejected
Sperrgebiet environmental planning information package	EnviroScience	rejected
Habitat management plan for the Succulent Karoo (SKEP Namibia domain outside the Sperrgebiet)	EnviroScience	rejected
Wild flowers of the Karas Region (plant field guide for southern Namibia)	EnviroScience	rejected
Biological data gap filling in the Sperrgebiet	EnviroScience	withdrawn

STAKEHOLDERS

Ministry Lands Resettlement and Rehabilitation
Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development
Ministry of Trade and Industry
Ministry of Environment and Tourism
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
Ministry of Mines and Energy
Ministry of Regional Local Government and Housing
Ministry of Basic Education, Sports and Culture
EnviroScience
Namibia Nature Foundation
Namibia Desert Environmental Trust
Namibia Environmental Education Network
Namdeb
Skorpion Zinc Mine
Rosh Pinah Mine
Keetmanshoop Municipality
Lüderitz Town Council
Brown Hyena Research Project
Aus Community Trust Fund
Aus Klein Aus Vista
Namib Coast Biodiversity Conservation and Management Project
Nature Investments
Stubenrauch Consultants
Namibia Development Trust
Southern Namibian Farmers Union

Acknowledgements

Local understanding, support and participation are key factors affecting the success of conservation projects. SKEP Namibia's niche relating to biodiversity conservation in the SK has become clear within these two years. We would like to agree with MET that the role of biodiversity in the larger scheme of things has shifted dramatically, from backroom taxonomy to mainstream environmental management and sustainable development. We thank all stakeholders that were part of the programme since the planning. One cannot otherwise, but to overemphasise the importance of biodiversity conservation to the nation. We thank C.I that hosted SKEP Namibia for the past years and wish them all the best for their endeavours. Our gratitude also goes out to all key stakeholders and advisory committee members that made time and effort during their busy schedules to review LOI's. To the Permanent Secretary of MET- Dr. Malan Lindeque, we appreciate the enthusiasm and support during our visits at your office. We would also like to thank Dr. Antje Burke of EnviroScience and Leonora Joodt of KRC for their constant assistance and availability during day or night regarding SKEP issues. May the Lord bless you all.