2nd Annual Biodiversity Stewardship Conference

Establishment of an endowment fund for Biodiversity Stewardship

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CEPF MPAH INVESTMENT

• The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF):

• The CEPF investment into the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot (MPAH):
  - From 2010 to 2015.
  - Invested US$6.65 million, primarily focused on protected area expansion initiatives.
PURPOSE OF AN ENDOWMENT FUND FOR THE MPAH

• Vision:
  - In support of biodiversity conservation initiatives, particularly those related to biodiversity stewardship, focusing on the establishment of new protected areas and support to existing ones.

• Purpose of the fund:
  - Consolidate and build upon the investment made by the CEPF into the MPAH.
  - Creation of a charitable trust.
  - Provide an independent platform for a number of organisations to pool their capital thus creating a larger fund with associated efficiencies and improved returns on investment.
  - Funds invested may be ring-fenced for the use of particular organisations or specific conservation initiatives, which will be managed through MOUs between the funders and the trust.
STRUCTURE OF THE FUND

• Charitable trust:
  ❑ To be called the Conservation Heritage Foundation.
  ❑ Trust deed is in the process of being finalised.

• Funding:
  ❑ Opportunities to develop short-term projects funded through specific ring-fenced project accounts.
  ❑ Intent to develop a capital endowment fund, interest of which may be used to fund initiatives through project calls.
  ❑ Need for rigorous financial oversight – transparency and audit procedures.
  ❑ An investment partner has been identified who will administer and invest the funds for the trust.
  ❑ The KZN Conservancies Association will partner in the creation of the fund and will contribute financially towards its initial financing.
FUND OPPORTUNITIES

• Creation of a vehicle that can provide:
  - Funders with certainty that their funds will be spent as they require.
  - Strong oversight and transparency in the management and expenditure of funds.

• Potential funding opportunities:
  - International donor funding for the establishment of protected areas and assistance in managing them.
  - Targeted project finance.
  - Bequests and donations from individuals.
  - Corporate donations.
  - Donations related to corporate social investment (CSI) required by corporations.
  - Offsets.
  - Potentially, the administration of rectification orders and fines for illegal activities such as unlawful ploughing, illegal mining, etc.
Thank you

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