



## **A partnership-driven legacy for the Cape Floristic Region: What can we learn from a 20-year journey?**

*By Malukhanye Mbopha and Shahieda Davids*

The Committee of the Cape Action for People and the Environment (CAPE) wishes to inform all CAPE partners and stakeholders of an exciting development in which we invite all to participate.

### **In short**

With funding from the Table Mountain Fund (TMF), a service provider, Singizi Consulting Africa, has been contracted to facilitate and document a participant-driven evaluation of CAPE. This will happen between 2018 and 2020. The project is known as the **CAPE Legacy Project**. It consists of a number of aspects: (1) a stakeholder evaluation of the CAPE Strategy 2020 that looks back on lessons and achievements of the past 20 years; (2) a learning process for CAPE partners in the biodiversity conservation sector of the CFR; and (3) A process to inform the future direction of CAPE partner organisations and a possible new collective effort in the CFR based on new imperatives.

### **Background**

CAPE is a partnership programme consisting of government and civil society organisations. CAPE was formed around a 20-year vision for conserving and restoring the biodiversity of the Cape Floristic Region (CFR) and the adjacent marine environment, while delivering significant benefits to the people of the region.

As we now head for the 20th year of CAPE's work, CAPE partners have called for a hard look at the legacy of CAPE, its impacts, evidence and lessons learnt. Ways to evaluate Cape's impact from 2000 - 2020 need to be conceptualised. The findings will help shape the future of the CAPE partnership for the conserving and protecting of the biodiversity of the CFR.

### **Objectives of the CAPE Legacy Project:**

1. Together with CAPE partners, develop a framework for the evaluation;
2. Consolidate, record and publicise the outcome, impact and lessons learned through the development and implementation of the CAPE Strategy 2020;
3. Provide opportunities for learning and exchange within and beyond the partnership; and
4. Provide an opportunity for stakeholders in the CFR to consider and shape the future of the partnership, should this emerge as relevant out of the evaluation.

### **A few more facts:**

CAPE partners agreed that the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) will coordinate the 'CAPE Legacy Project' on behalf of the CAPE partners. The CAPE Implementation Committee (CIC) and the CAPE Executive Committee (EXCO) will provide oversight for the project's implementation.

We are pleased to announce that Singizi Consulting Africa has been appointed as the service provider for this work. The contract has been finalised to enable the project to start in November 2018. Representatives of Singizi, Sue Soal and Tracy Konstant, met the Exco on 25 October for an inception meeting to table their proposed plan and timeline.



They, with a third member of the team, Geordie Ractliffe and in collaboration with SANBI staff Malukhanye Mbopha and Shahieda Davids, will be the people pursuing the Legacy Project.

The CAPE Legacy Project is to be a catalytic process, incorporating monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and the opportunity to create a vision for the future. It will build institutional M&E capacity at SANBI and amongst CAPE partners. Coordination and facilitation will be undertaken through CAPE Reference Groups and Landscape Initiatives.

**What does this mean to you?**

In the coming months, Singizi will be contacting those who have been involved in CAPE projects, programmes, initiatives and with institutions involved in the conservation of the CFR over the past 20 years. Use this an opportunity to examine the achievements of your organisation, the extent to which we have reduced duplication and have improved collaboration - all in the interests of conservation and human wellbeing within our unique and irreplaceable CFR.

In addition, the CAPE Legacy Project will host a day-long conversation on **Friday 1 March 2019** in Cape Town (the day after the CIC), in which all CAPE role-players, past, current and future are invited to participate. This event will kick-start the Legacy Project with space to connect, and reconnect, recollect the inspiration and events of CAPE's life and look together at the current context within which we find ourselves.

Invitations will go out early next year, but for now, please save the date. If you are unable to attend, or even if you are able to attend, please consider writing a brief reflection on your CAPE experience and thinking and share it with us. These contributions will be used to inform our March event, and the project beyond.

Thank you for your co-operation and looking forward to 2019!

For more information about the CAPE Legacy Project, or to share your reflections, please contact Malukhanye Mbopha, tel: 021 799 8404; email: [m.mbopha@sanbi.org.za](mailto:m.mbopha@sanbi.org.za), or Sue Soal (for Singizi team) [sue@theprocess.org.za](mailto:sue@theprocess.org.za)