



Proceedings from UCPP 15th Quarterly meeting – 24th November 2016

Methodist hall, cnr high & castle street, Matatiele

Theme: Collaboration for livelihood improvements

1. Welcome: Sinegugu Zukulu (UCPP chairperson) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Meeting opened with prayer by Nolufefe Nonjeke - Dlanjwa.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

- Inaugural Umzimvubu Resource Quality Objectives on the 5th December 2016 in East London.
- Ntenetyana DEA NRM project for LIMA is pending, still awaiting approval.
- WWF fund for ERS approved, funds still pending

Minutes read and adopted

Introductions: Introductions done by everyone, see attached attendance register

Apologies: Dean (DEDEAT), UKZN (Grassland), Rhodes, PhD students, Michael Cox (Dartmouth college), Nolu and Gerbrand (CSA), Kululwa (DWS), Mike (K2C), Pat Lowry (Ezemvelo)

3. Update and reports from partners

a. UEIP-UCPP learning exchange (Tsoanelo Shata, ERS)

Held on the 15-16th November 2016 in Howick. The theme was 'water governance and research trends'. Attended by 50 – 60 participants from UCPP

and UEIP. Learning from their institutional governance and how to achieve sustainable balance between ecological infrastructure and man-made infrastructure. Had a site visit to where the Enviro champs are working in monitoring the sewage overflow and spills. Very inspiring exchange, lots of learning and productive networking for future collaboration.

b. Range management at Mafube (Lumko Mboyi, LIMA)

Bulelwa Dzangwa is a young lady from Nkau who started working as a land care giver in the community. She has been working for SaveAct for 5yrs with Mazwi from Mahlathini. She is now working at Mafube with Lumko, where she started learning about land and livestock management. In the range management project that she is involved in, she has not encountered any challenges yet. She has acquired a lot in land conservation, and financial/ business management.

c. One health project (Sinegugu Zukulu, CSA)

This project is being piloted in 4 villages, Nkawulweni, Ntlola, Mapoleseng and Mateleng (ward 14). It focuses on the rehabilitation and protection of springs. Why one health? Matat has degraded landscape and rivers are polluted by rangelands. There is a huge investment from municipalities in huge infrastructure that ends up not being utilised properly. This project is in partnership with ANDM as they are the water service authority in the area. There are currently about 11 local volunteers that are village based. Monitoring is done by volunteers using aquatic assessment tools, such as clarity tube and other scientific tools used by ANDM such as Oxygen measurement.

Questions

Unathi: What is the frequency of monitoring and data collection?

A: Monitoring is done weekly by volunteers, data collected every time on site. CSA and ANDM follow up to do more monitoring. Samples taken to Umngeni Water for further testing.

Sine explained that volunteers had received prior training by trainers from Washington in monitoring and data collection skills.

Basi further explained that data is collected with a device once a month. Monitoring that is done is basically looking at water quality before and after rehabilitation. Communities are already using water from springs that are degraded.

Q: Is data being collected accessible by the public?

Unathi: Also is there existing data that can be used to compare with the data that you currently collecting?

Basi: There isn't any available data. The data that is available does not complement the current data, therefore cannot be used to compare.

Nicky: Is the data collected usable by community? This should add value to them so that they see need to take care of the rangelands.

Sine: equipment funded by Millennium funding.

Nicky suggested that this could maybe be parked as a research project.

Sissie also suggested to have a tool showing all the interventions being done in the catchment to avoid replication and have a trail of them. This should also show where all the monitoring is done.

d. Frackfreefest report and lessons from the US

Ben Walker made a short report on the status of fracking in USA. Lots of lessons to be learnt as South Africa considers this fossil based energy option.

Sissie: What is the impression you got in terms of the work we are doing?

Nicky gave a report about the Frackfreefest held from the 3rd – 5th October through funding from Global Green Grants worth US\$10 000. About 120 participants from all over the country including Karoo, Limpopo, KZN, EC attended. Appreciate the lessons we got from the Karoo people from their long experience. The application for exploration in this area was lodged last year. Rhino Oil and Gas, who are the applicant for Matat area, and other companies such as Sungu-sungu, Mutuoane have a lot of applications across South Africa (maps on UCPP website mining page). They propose exploration because of lots of potential that oil reserves or gas deposits that have not been identified will exist. Fear is what this would do to the work the UCPP is doing here and the

Matat stewardship plan to proclaim Matat as a water factory that has been adopted by council. Matat is entirely depended on groundwater supply which might be contaminated during drilling. We got very positive input and support from Earth Alliance.

This FrackFree gathering did not only include areas affected by shale gas applications but mining at large and provided an opportunity to share community experiences and strategise a common way forward.

On the last day, there was a debate between ANC, ACDP and the community. ACDP has managed to get fracking on the parliament agenda and needs input from us. There are currently 10 shale gas applications in KZN and Matat. There is a local biogas innovator, showing that there are other alternative energy sources. Have noticed the tactics they use, like withdrawing ground based exploration activities. Again PASA reviewing application, should have decision by early Feb.

e. DEA NRM project update (Bridget Munyantore, ERS)

There are currently 80 participants in Mvenyane, 84 participants in Mzongwana. Trying to be compliant with the difficult DEA Working for Water norms and standards. The challenges we experiencing is mostly absenteeism and safety issues. The goal for clearing is restoration.

Merida: what is the biomass used for?

A: Donga rehabilitation, mostly left for the community to take and use for firewood.

f. Dartmouth college update (Aimee Ginsberg, Benefits SE)

Looking at what has worked and what is the focus next year with Dartmouth exchange which will happen every year. UCPP is the host for their African Foreign Study Programme.

Sine explained Dartmouth College and how they relate to the UCPP for those who are not aware.

Moving forward, Dartmouth College would like to work with the UCPP partners in the following manner:-

- Have a wider range of UCPP partners represented.
- Continue to have key dedicated hosts that will work closely with the students.
- Found field work rewarding to both the students and Dartmouth, and that also help Michael streamline how he would do his research.
- Have found the use of questionnaire development more efficient, and would like to administer them in a wider range.
- Michael would like to work directly with every student, having 6 groups limited him to interact with the students, would like to reduce the groups to 3 or 4 so that he can with the students and be able to do the work thoroughly since they have limited time.
- They are more interested in the wattle clearing project especially the social component and also the sustainable model that was developed.
- Research will be recorded and made available on the UCPP website.
- Dartmouth wants to spend more time on the ground, so that they can produce good work, beneficial to them and the UCPP.

Sissie proposed Aimee to look at what is applicable to Dartmouth College so that the research questions could be aligned to their studies too.

Sinead advised everyone to attend next year October for maximum participation: when the students give feedback of their findings this is both for the benefit of the students and the UCPP, and to motivate them to continue coming because we see their value. Their work is of a very high standard.

g. Citizen Science update: EGS and WRC (Cobus Theron, EWT)

Cobus gave a presentation on the proclamation of Protected Environment that it is a legislated framework. EWT to continue working with ERS and CSA in expanding protected areas, starting at Mzongwana then Ongeluksnek.

Nduduzo gave a brief overview of the trials that they running at Cedarberg. They are clearing Chichi and running trials using herbicides in order to find effective methods to control it.

Q: Merida: why are you clearing? Is it for agricultural purposes or landscape/ grassland benefit?

A: Cobu: opening up grassland areas being invaded by woody plants.

Q: Val: Most species evolved because of fire and historically this could be the course of chichi there, why you treating Chichi with herbicide instead of fire?

A: Cobus: The chichi and the area is too big to use fire.

Erna suggested that to look maybe design scenario that will look at the area before and after treatment.

Nicky: maybe try looking at the grassland whether it has potential to recover after the treatment and what it will become, can it be used for grazing.

h. Research and AgriSPACE update (Merida Roets, Scientific Roets)

Merida gave an overview of her company, what it is trying to achieve and the use of wattle biomass for other purposes.

There is a research group being coordinated by her under the UCPP. Useful to have participants and use their expertise. The research group is also a platform for funding opportunities. Can be used for collaboration requests and/or opportunities. Aiming to strengthen existing opportunities. Research need to differentiate between output and impacts; output could look more at the literature and impacts would be looking at what we doing with communities at the ground level.

Val commented on the use of wattle for other purposes, that it could be something that could be taken across to communities.

4. Collaboration and Opportunities

a. Landscape level approach and Green incentive scheme – Erna Kruger, LIMA/MO)

Q: Merida: is it going to be put on proposal or packed aside? .

A: Erna: not yet

Nicky commented that this fits into UCPP vision, such as looking at becoming a CMF in terms of water management framework. It also complements the current UCPP 5 year strategy.

b. Meat Naturally Initiative (Sine, for MNP)

Sine gave a presentation on the CSA MNP PTY initiative that is looking at bringing the market to the communities we working with provided they sign agreements and adhere to a grazing management plan.

Q: Merida: What breed is used, is it Nguni?

Merida suggested to look at the Geographic indication (looking at the origin of the breed) and that could be tied up to intellectual property.

Sine explained that the model is looking more at the grass fed element, without any feedlots and all things they add.

Q: Is there any improvement from 2014 to now in terms of amount offered per livestock?

A: Yes, in the previous auction prices ranged between R9.00 – R12.00 per kg with a scale used and depending on the type of animal (bull, cow, ox). Yesterday (23rd Nov 2016) prices were around R16.66 per kg also with a scale used. Also trying to bring a diverse number of buyers for competition.

Lumko gave an example of Mafube auction using single vs multiple buyers. In an auction where there was a single buyer the price offered per kg was very low whereas when there were multiple buyers it was bit high because the buyers were competing.

Sine added that it also depends what time of the year is the auction held. The price of red meat prices fluctuates very frequent, from September to March they are high then beginning of winter they become low.

We are also training sellers by taking them to the Cedarville auction to get first-hand experience of auctions. We acknowledge that traditional selling methods have high prices. Educating sellers so that they can understand how prices come about, building their capacity.

Nicky added that the auction was a success that 95% of livestock offered was sold, showing that people are becoming confident and have trust in the system.

Q: Merida: Who are the buyers?

A: Local farmers, people from Mzinto, sold mostly for red meat market.

Sine shared some of the experience from yesterday's auction that when good prices were offered, there would be a lot of noise and applause from the sellers. Another important thing to note is that sellers are not forced to sell.

More on www.umzimvubu.org/projects/meatnaturally and [rangeland restoration](#) pages

5. Upcoming events and announcements from partners

a. Setting a date for UCPP 5 year strategy

Cobus: looking where we are. Some NGO's joined. Some people have changed their positions.

Sissie encouraged new people to read the MoU and familiarise themselves with it, so that we can decide if it needs to be modified or revised. We've had the same chairperson and secretary for years that also needs to be looked at.

Merida: is there a need for someone to chair / facilitate the session? Agreed yes.
Sissie: how do we share the load better?

Proposed dates – 6 to 8 March 2017 with the last day being the quarterly meeting.

Resource classification PSC meeting on the 5th December 2016 in East London.

Unathi commented that as the Department they will request for the meeting to be moved to the catchment for stakeholders to better participate.

Meeting adjourned and lunch served!

For presentations, please go to: <https://umzimvubu.org/15th-qm-nov2016-collaboration-for-livelihood-improvements/>