



18th Quarterly Meeting minutes, 11th October 2017

The Executive suite, above Shell garage, Main Street, Matatiele

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Sinegugu Zukulu, the UCPP chairperson, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions by all, *see attendance register attached*. **Apologies:** Siya Mthonjeni (DEDEAT), Joyce Loza (MDTP), Themba Nsibande (ECPTA)

2. Minutes of the last meeting and Matters arising

Matters arising: There will be another learning exchange taking place beginning of next year but the date has not yet been confirmed. This will be late January or early Feb, and will replace the quarterly platform session.

Minutes adopted as a true reflection.

3. Updates and reports from partners

a. Research Forum: RPF workshop from August (Merida Roets, Scientific Roets)

The RPF workshop had about 33 participants. It was a very engaged 3 days' workshop with an excellent useful output. A report has been compiled and will be available on the website with which people can engage. The idea is, as soon as there is a funding call, one call access the report, populate it under relative places one wants to do research on. Why did we do the RPF? There was a research forum established by UCPP in 2016, did 5 year strategic planning early this year in April and also fits in with what the SANBI RDI platform aims to do which is stimulating innovation around safe guarding ecological infrastructure. This is type of research is one that will have a direct impact, very much applied research and more theoretical hence impact. A research programme must aspire to higher order objectives as outlined by sustainable development goals, the new growth path, the sustainable development goals set out by the UN, national goals new growth path, departmental goals (strategic goals of the department of environmental affairs, rural development & land reform, economic development, water and sanitation) all these departments also do their strategic plans and similarly align to those high order objectives of the sustainable development goals and the national goals. UCPP strategic objectives done in April also align with those goals.

The following are some of the goals identified that show which of the 18 sustainable development goals we aspire to within this catchment:-

- Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.
- Sustainably manage forest
- Combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Other objectives we want to address:

- end hunger
- achieve food security & improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- ensure availability & sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- ensure access to a reliable sustainable modern energy for all
- promote sustained inclusive and sustainable economic growth
- full and productive employment & decent work for all
- ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- take urgent action to combat climate change & its impacts
- build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

The UCPP purpose which came out of the RPF workshop is environmentally & socio-economically resilient livelihoods. Detailed report available at: <https://umzimvubu.files.wordpress.com/2017/01/the-ucpp-research-programme-august-2017.pdf>. 5 sub-themes and ended up with 20 research projects. Projects further unpacked.

Questions and discussions

Nicky pointed out that there is no mention of water security in the themes and yet it is UCPP's core vision/ theme. Need to develop some rules of engagement by external researchers.

Merida will have a session in the next UCPP meeting regarding rules of engagement.

b. uMzimvubu classification (Lawrence, DWS)

Project title is about the determination of water resource classes and also associated resource quality objectives in the uMzimvubu catchment. The study is currently in step 5 and 6. These steps talk to the scenario evaluations. Reports proceedings from the last forum meeting are about the groundwater report, wetland eco classification and SREWR report and ecological consequences report. In the next project report, there is going to be a 3rd project steering committee meeting which is going to be held in Matatiele. The items to be on the agenda is scenarios evaluation and proposed water resources classes.

There was a request to distribute the reports mentioned so that participants can look at the issues that have been covered in detail. Report will be distributed; also Nicky and Sine are receiving them so some can be shared through them. Information is also available on the project website.

Is the new information being shared with the EOH consultants who are conducting the Eastern Cape biodiversity conservation plan revision which determine the critical biodiversity areas across the EC and in the meeting of their study, there were huge black hole of data for the uMzimvubu area, so they need data on the value of ecological infrastructure. Make a request to Pesty to send this information to them.

c. Ecofutures update (Tsoanelo, ERS and Amos, CSA)

Ecofutures is a programme which is aimed at school leavers and entrepreneurs without tertiary support, exposing them into the green economy. In this programme so far, we've done awareness to the Matat local municipality schools inviting them to the expo, posters were placed around town in strategic areas for school leavers. The expo was held at King Edward high school on the 3 & 4th August 2017. Had more engagements with the department of education, municipality, social development, DEDEAT and other stakeholders. Currently have applications open, available on the uMzimvubu website, also at ERS and CSA offices closing on the 31st October 2017.

Amos: Ecofutures is focused on 2 pillars viz youth in terms of green economy employment, and in terms of entrepreneurial development. Running the programme with ERS: CSA is focusing on the 16-24 age group funded by Citi group foundation, ERS has GT funding for up to 35 year age group. Running applications open until 31st October. ERS current focus is Matatiele whereas CSA is focused on the entire Alfred Nzo District municipality

Dr Kuriah suggested that we consider making the programme an extension programme.

Sine responded that UCPP is partnering with universities in short courses and extension programmes.

Menzi asked if the programme can be extended in a way that it includes unemployed graduates.

Response: this will be put into consideration for replication as this is a pilot programme

d. Stewardship update (Malaika, ECPTA)

There are challenges where there are pending mining applications or rights to, no support to declare.

Questions

Q: is DMR having an upper hand in the JPTT committee?

A: DEA is represented at the JPTT meeting.

Q: Has JPTT replaced REMDEC from DWS.

e. DEA NRM WfW projects update incl. new call proposals (Nicky, ERS)

New call by DEA for 'working for' projects. 2500 jobs created over 3 years, focusing on securing ecological infrastructure. ERS/LIMA have a joint venture and have applied for 6 sites in the upper uMzimvubu catchment including Matat nature reserve and Sinxaku in Ntabelanga catchment, one of the site in the SWSA's as per WWF

Green Trust areas. CSA and Kishugu also submitting proposals for Mvenyane and Ndakeni, plus ward 13 areas respectively.

f. Rhino Oil & Gas Environmental Authorisation and appeal process (Nicky McLeod)

The fracking application is currently awaiting record of decision, and local attorney tackling a legal objection on behalf of local farmer and Chief Lebenya.

4. Research Collaboration: Dartmouth College

a. UCPP and Dartmouth collaboration (Prof Michael Cox, DC)

Grateful for the continued relationship and support from ERS and other UCPP partners. Had a wonderful week in Matat, with homestays at Mzongwana, Colana and Masakala, people treated them with deep hospitality and were always available to assist. Really appreciate the cultural exchange and research which can boost UCPP work. Over R75 000 went directly to local homestay providers in four villages areas. Four key projects were presented based on the students' work:

• Indigenous plants use

Suggestions for sustainable harvesting of certain species. The use of green houses for propagation. To use clips when harvesting rather than harvesting the whole root. Value of traditional knowledge and its intellectual property rights.

• Wattle biomass value adding

Explored production of fodder supplements using wattle leaves and twigs as a base. Tested with animals and found it highly palatable and acceptable, and owners are keen to develop a system to produce it locally as a substitute to buying from agric outlets.

• Meat Naturally project

Research on impact of livestock incentives for rangeland stewardship, and sustaining the grassfed market supply off communal landscapes

• Ecotourism product development at Colana

Homestays were an exciting component – the group set up a website and Air BnB system, trail maps and gave constructive product development feedback. Time spent with local guides and elders was a highlight.

Q: What is the target group for Colana homestays? Needs more consideration

5. Upcoming events & announcements from partners

- a. GIS for beginners intro on 12 Oct (Ash, ERS)** – those who are interested can contact Ash to arrange for a training day and venue.
- b. CMFs and sediments exchange 25-26 October** – this has been postponed and the date is to be communicated with Rhodes Uni colleagues.
- c. RQO uMzimvubu classification 14 November in Matat** – this is a study looking at classifying water resources quality objectives in the uMzimvubu catchment. This will be the 3rd PSC meeting. UCPP members urged to attend as it will now be hosted in the catchment.
- d. Upcoming auctions with Meat Naturally initiative** – 29 November 2017, Mzongwana auction, others being arranged by Gerbrand in December.
- e. NLEIP exchange first week of December** – water science management meeting in Grahamstown from the 5 – 7 December 2017. Can arrange transport for UCPP reps to go. It's a good opportunity as they are mainly researchers and help us understand the impacts and we give inputs for monitoring design.
- f. SANBI CREW** – will be in Kokstad in late Jan, looking at identifying plant species. Everyone who would like to join can communicate with Sine or Dean.

6. Any other items and setting next meeting date – this will be communicated in due course.

7. Closure and lunch!