



**1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies** - Dean Ricketts, the UCPP deputy chairperson, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Introductions by all see *attendance register attached*

**Apologies:** Joyce Loza (MDTP), Lawrence Mulangaphuma (DWS), Ralph (UFS)

**2. Minutes of the last meeting and Matters arising**

Matters arising:

➤ The uMzimvubu classification: this is looking at developing resource quality objectives for the standards that we want to maintain the water quality of this catchment. It has been really fruitful to have uMzimvubu catchment members at the meetings picking up the glitches especially where the upper catchment is filling up the gaps because the consultants tend to focus their research on the areas like PSJ, Mt Frere that are of high demand areas rather than the water source areas. The commentary coming from members participating at the PSC meeting has been important to ensure that we have the highest possible classification level so that the water quality is not allowed to diminish through inappropriate development or abstraction. Reports are posted onto the UCPP website.

There is supposed to be an update meeting tomorrow, the 12<sup>th</sup> April but has been postponed to the 15<sup>th</sup> May. It is an internal PSC meeting but people should have a look at the reports even though they are too technical. They had initially only wanted to classify the upper catchment as a class 2/3 because of the standard interpretation models used but have requested that this be reviewed and have a separate upper and lower catchment classification because the upper is the source and the lower is the user and they are coming up with much higher quality classification which gives the upper a higher level of protection. This all gets gazetted and that means whatever activities implemented have to maintain that level of classification.

➤ Themba to do a follow up with Malaika on the status of the JPTT between DMR and DEA. Dean added that any proposed stewardship site or nature reserve means any plan, project or proposal needs to look whether there is any proposed mining application in that area. DMR needs to look at the biodiversity benefits, if there is any application, it means a proposed development has to be put on hold.

➤ New call from DEA for the working for projects: several uMzimvubu partners submitted proposals and they were approved with funding between 10 to 66 million for different projects extending over 3 years, right across the top of the catchment down to the middle area below Mt Frere, Ntabankulu. Prior to signing, there was a directive from the minister to reallocate the money from all over the provinces to the Western Cape drought release. All those budgets have been cut down to 15% of their original amount. Budgets that were going to employ about 1000 people in the umzimvubu, Matatiele, Ntabankulu area have been cut to about 200 people. It is bad in terms of job creation element but has forced to look into other ways to make use of the landscape to sustain people and have another plan.

➤ Dartmouth research collaboration: to take place in the mid- towards- end of September this year. Putting an early appeal to partners who have research requests or need to collaborate or need students to help with thinking or processing data to send their request. These are amazing and good students who would do anything needed, very handy at doing research and pulling things through. They helped with the tourism project, meat naturally and grazing, wattle processing and come up with fresh ideas and willing hands.

➤ Rhino oil and gas exploration application: environmental authorisation issued by PASA, appealed by UCPP partners including Chief Lebanya who submitted an official legal appeal and was granted a hearing with the legal advisor in Pretoria. The Chief travelled to Pretoria with sponsorship through UCPP and the appeal was heard and apparently upheld but waiting to hear from DEA appeals authority. PASA and DMR issue the authorisation and DEA adjudicates any appeals. There are also tight timeframes that everybody had to comply with and they were supposed to issue judgement as to whether the authorisation was issued or withdrawn by 25<sup>th</sup> January but still waiting. This is still a huge threat to our water security. The Chiefs have been vocal that they don't want this on their landscapes and aware of the threats.

Minutes were adopted

**3. Updates, reports and collaborative inputs from partners**

**a. WASH project update (Nolu Kwayimani, CSA)**

One Health: A holistic approach towards Freshwater Conservation is a project that started 3 years ago by CSA and ANDM. Brief background about One Health programme:-

- Developed due to the impact of climate change. Vulnerability assessment done and uMzimvubu identified as one of the priority areas when it comes to water security and determined as one of the severely degraded areas.
- There are about 435000 ha of severely degraded grassland landscape; also there are over 40000 ha of wetlands. At the same time there is degradation, alien plant encroachment and erosion that are impacting nearly 10% of the upper catchment; all these are impacting the lower catchment.
- Linkages of the water services shows that as the grassland landscape is degraded, chances are there would not be enough water access or good water quality.
- Most people in the catchment rely on livestock, and graze their livestock in the rangelands and sanitation is not adequate in these secluded areas, so they tend to use alternative measures like going to the veld
- The project integrates water sanitation hygiene activities with livestock and conservation programmes to improve the health of the people, animals and the ecosystems and it's centralized on increasing the rehabilitation of water resources, enabling people to access safe water, encouraging hygienic practices in ward 21 and 14 of MLM and ward 8 of uMzimvubu municipality.
- WASH does not necessarily work in areas where there is no alien clearing and livestock management because the idea is to see if there are linkages in terms of; if wattle is removed where there is infestation, is there any improvement in terms of water flow. Also in areas where there is rangeland management, WASH integrates or complements those approaches that are already there
- ERS, CSA and ANDM compiled a report, a baseline work that is looking at the status quo of the water issues in areas where we currently work, and also areas that are a priority that at some point would like to work in. The baseline is what informed the integrations that led to incorporating the WASH program into the freshwater conservation. The document is available and can be shared amongst stakeholders. This document has also shown that in most areas there is poor water quality and in some areas there is no infrastructure, in areas where there was, it was either not adequate or functional. The sanitation facilities were also not of the usable standard, some damaged, broken, or full, so there was no monitoring system in those areas.

Key elements of the one health programme: rehabilitation and protecting springs; integrating environmental data into planning and training and skills development with partners on the landscape. These are achieved through community facilitation and implementation support for planning and monitoring and evaluation. The program has these successes so far:-

- Integrating WASH and Freshwater Conservation Activities Monitoring
- Building an evidence base and measuring progress
- Engaging and Listening to Stakeholders

Approach has been listening to community needs and see how that particular intervention can meet those needs and this approach has taken the project in a different direction that, we cannot use one approach in every village, need to adapt and listen to what people say.

Results to date:

- 13 springs rehabilitated by villagers through German Embassy funding, Starwood foundation and ABCG funding
- 21 water monitors trained in Citizen Science, spring rehabilitation and protection, best Hygiene practices and have provided a lot of capacity building training
- 800 households Door to Door awareness conducted by trained water monitors
- 8 villages engaged on hygiene best practices
- 8 villages engaged on linkages of WASH and Conservation
- Improvements in water quality and quantity

To note that the programme is not trying to take over the infrastructure development role by the municipality but this is a complementary approach, hence capacitating the communities so that they can continue even without project funding. In most villages e.g. Ndakeni, the spring, wattle and villages are in close proximity so communities are given a chance to lead in choosing springs that need rehabilitation for different uses and advise. Through this communication, have realised the indigenous knowledge about the importance of certain springs and why they shouldn't be rehabilitated, for them is an indigenous benefit and for us is a conservation benefit.

Programme successes:-

- Have created monitoring tools
- Door to door awareness
- Approach and methods to collect data
- Young millenniums – spent a lot in training and capacitating them
- Citizen science monitoring
- Sanitation protocol
- Developed gender analysis report
- Health monitoring protocol – to see if there is a need to raise awareness

Currently working with World vision in developing an ecoranger toolkit that aims at promoting behavioural change around hygienic practices in people's lives and sanitation for herders. Also integrating gender and youth into the programme to maximise the impact and make sure that everyone is benefiting equally in the project

Next step:

- Lessons learned review to see whether there is any improvement needed in order to be able to replicate and expand in new areas.
- Continue with M&E
- To continue working hand-in-hand with current and establish partnerships

### Questions and discussions

David: What is the scale the project is currently looking at implementing and what is the programme plan moving forward? Is the work also determined by financial years?

A: Initially started with 4 villages with each village about 4 or 5 springs to rehabilitate with water monitors. Currently at a point where we would like to expand to other areas where there are currently NRM projects at a ward scale then expand from there, but have no funding capacity. Planning a lessons learnt session to reflect on what has worked and what needs improvement to move to other areas. Also need to realise that the interventions at the upper catchment need to be demonstrated in the middle and lower catchment but keeping cognisance that might take a learning process at different landscapes. Project is based on a 3 year funding and it is at the end of its 3<sup>rd</sup> year.

Q: what are the department involved; water affairs, environmental affairs?

A: At a bigger scale, DEA is involved because the programme cannot be implemented where there is no alien clearing project and currently within the organisation that is the biggest component. At a local scale; ANDM involved, showing the linkages between water service and access. It is very important to work with them as they are responsible for water infrastructure and are the authority. Also the environment section at ANDM is very involved.

### b. Watershed Stewardship process update (Themba Nsibande, ECPTA)

Update since March 2017. Presentation included the following background:

- ECPTA developed the Protected Areas Expansion strategy in 2012 as a response to the national strategy. A couple of sites were identified within the province as biodiversity hotspot areas.
- In 2015/16 received funding to facilitate the declaration of protected areas within the province that are within the provincial strategy and 3 sites were selected for funding; i.e. North eastern cape grassland, Amathole-Katberg area and East London coast.
- Funding from 2 organisations i.e. SANParks GEF5 and SANBI GEF5 with 2 sites funded by SANParks and the EL coast by SANBI.
- Site responsible for, consists of 2 district municipalities; ANDM and Joe Gqabi with 3 local municipalities, Matatiele being one
- From the NPAES 2008, focusing on the grassland biome. In SA, currently have 3% of this biome that is protected and the target is 14%, so have an 11% target to chase. From the communal areas can achieve this as the EC is mostly composed of the grassland biome and EC is working towards improving this 3%.
- Have 4 categories in the biodiversity stewardship programme, the highest being the (1) nature reserve (2) protected environment (3) biodiversity management agreement and (4) conservation area.
- SANParks GEF5 biodiversity stewardship programme focuses on two which are the highest level i.e. nature reserve and protected environment.
- Working through NEMPA Act 57 of 2003 and for nature reserve, declaration through section 23 and for protected areas declaration through section 86.

What has been done so far in terms of engagements for the 2 sites:-

- Have engaged with Golden Fleece farm which is around Cedarville area
- Thina Hedge Mountain lodge which is a privately owned area
- Chevy-chase - a communal area situated in Mt Fletcher. Have an information sharing meeting with department of land affairs, community and DEDEAT to discuss proof of land ownership which is the stumbling block in communal areas to determine whether the land can be released to them or get permission so that, that piece of land can be set aside for development of a nature reserve.
- PG Bison around Ugie area - in an engagement process phase with them but have not finalised the process yet.
- Phelandaba areas that is next to Sterkspruit - a communal area with an interest. Have sent an application to ECPTA with an interest to establish a nature reserve. Also issues of proof of land ownership.
- Balloch farm - privately owned around Barkley. Have engaged with the Chairperson of their farmers association to join the stewardship which is voluntary.
- Had a meeting in Maclear through the Maclear farmers association accompanied by a landowner from the Cedarville protected environment which played a huge role as farmers felt comfortable to hear how it has been for them to be part of stewardship and have showed interest

There are currently 2 sites under review: Golden Fleece farm and Balloch farm. A biodiversity assessment needs to be conducted to check what the area qualifies as, both add up to about 5400 ha.

The second site is the Matatiele stewardship area which is in the watershed with Lesotho and borders with KZN at Mzongwana area up to Ongeluksnek nature reserve. Matatiele watershed stewardship initiative is a UCPP collaboration. Have identified an area that is about 65000ha and consists of 5 Chiefs and have focused on the area that is about 1800m above sea level to exclude settlements. Have consulted with all 5 Chief's about the proposed project. No objections from all Chiefs but have shown a lot of interest especially with the possibility of the project unlocking other opportunity like jobs. There is a need to assist communities in projects that can improve their livelihoods. In some areas there are activities already taking place such as alien clearing. In Makhoba, there is a cooperative which shows initiative and would appreciate any assistance to continue establishing tourism facilities. In the east area that is under Chief Lebanya; have been approached by the Chief at the office with an interest to have his area declared as a protected area.

#### Way forward:

- Chief briefing meetings concerning proof of landownership with department of land affairs and public works as it is a communal area and need land to be released by government.
- Presenting to standing committees so that the initiative can be adopted and included in the IDP
- To conduct a biodiversity assessment; this informs whether the area qualifies as a nature reserve or protected environment. Then site will go through panel review which informs the management authority

Working in partnership with the state, NGO's, parastatals and others, including traditional authorities.

#### Questions and comments

Sarah: How long do you expect the process to take? Has a communal area ever been declared in the Eastern Cape?

A: with private landowners the process is very quick as they have all the necessary documentation in place, but in a communal set-up, this is totally different as there is no proof of land ownership which is a long process. ECPTA has never declared a communal area so this will be big for the EC. There is a site called Sodwanana where there was an intention to declare and it was gazetted, for the communal land need to get proof of ownership from land affairs, but it will take time. Working in collaboration has been really helpful with CSA, ERS, ANDM and other partners. Also working with private landowners and looking at expanding. It's a lengthy process because as the agency is just facilitating the declaration process and doing submissions to the MEC of the EC.

Vathiswa: With the stewardship programme, what are limitations with the communal use of the land such as rangeland management programme.

A: the biodiversity stewardship recognises other land uses and is allowed. What is needed is a plan detailing the use and management of land once the area is declared.

#### c. uMzimvubu CREW group formation (Vathiswa Zikishe, SANBI)

Brief background and overview of CREW:-

- a legislated programme not a social programme,
- started in 2003, with the national launch in 2009
- when it started, focused on Proteas in the Western Cape then SANBI changed from being a botanical institute to a biodiversity institute and have a mandate to report on the national status of biodiversity
- Coordinate the programme to involve civil society
- Working with conserving and sustainable use of indigenous biological resources and rehabilitation of ecosystems
- Core functions – to monitor rare and endangered plant species in order to report the biodiversity status to the minister
- CREW aims to achieve/ monitor species of conservation concern in their natural habitat – check their extinction rate
- Update information on status, abundance and distribution of plant species
- In 2009 published a book on record of South African plants
- Have a website that is regularly updated on plant records, such as status, location etc
- Work with a lot of partners who have plant interest such as CSA, ERS, ECPTA, SANParks and do a lot of citizen science on plants
- Have a lot of voluntary groups in Western Cape
- Through the Groen-Sebenza programme, managed to establish CREW in EC in 2015
- raise awareness through educational activities, work with university and school kids to make them aware of career opportunities in botany

Why monitor? SA has rich biodiversity. Have more species that have become extinct than other countries. Also SANBI is a signatory of the global strategy for the time conservation strategy with 16 targets that need to be achieved by 2020. Looking at Objective 2, target 5 which states that plant diversity must be conserved. By 2020 aiming to have important areas for plant diversity in SA identified based on botanical research and endemism patterns. Stewardship also forms part of the target, want to expand and have plants conserved in communal areas also.

- Looking at areas of high conservation importance concern
- CREW uses herbarium records to help monitor plant species
- Areas that have lots of data and volunteers WC, KZN, LIMPOPO, EC still need to fill the gaps and document

Activities that can be done within CREW:

- Adopting key sites – sites of biodiversity importance as a volunteer
- Municipal commonages as they are important for conservation but should not disturb communal activities
- Monitoring areas that are already protected such as nature reserve – EC also has a gap of specimen collected in nature reserves
- Black owners through stewardship programmes
- Demographic monitoring which aims to understand basic plant life history - this helps to understand how climate change will impact this
- Monitor species that are known from small geographic areas

Types of volunteers: Individual, scientists, conservation agency, provincial or regional planner. For this area, there is a group that has just been formed. Had a field day where we were identifying plants, gave presentation on why we collect and a quick show of how to collect and identify plants with them.

What does this data collected do? Feeds the biodiversity stewardship, EIA processes etc

Success: well documented species, updated plants

Who can be a volunteer: anyone interested in the CREW activities, no need for any formal education as CREW provides training workshops and plant identification guides

### Questions

Mnika: In some areas, volunteering works in some it doesn't. One of the reasons is some people have means, in rural areas challenges are working with people who have no means which might be the problem in getting volunteers. Suggested that there is a need to come with strategies where people can participate in conservation while generating income. In areas where we work, there are people interested in conservation. Maybe start by building botanies in these rural areas where people can see these and also generate income. Still lack municipal participation in conservation, need to encourage and assist them to better understand.

Nicky: Matat has a lot of gap when it comes to biodiversity data. The EC biodiversity strategy for CBA revealed this. Including CREW monitoring protocols and stewardship can cover a lot of data. Have started a small group, those who have interest can join

#### d. Rangeland exchange report (Sissie Matela, ERS)

A 3 day event in Matat with over 50 attendees from all over including Lesotho. The model is called livelihoods to motivate participation from communities when it comes to conservation. Exciting event where people were sharing what they are doing, how all that fits into the big picture and contributes to livelihoods and benefits of landscapes. Have realised that focusing on contributing to livelihoods, also have the ability to have ecological goods and services restored. The strategy that was adopted for this area is around restoration of landscapes by first removing wattle, then making sure the grass grows, livestock kraals and graze, sell their livestock and make money. People have now realised that they need to look after their grass because they can make money from that. More and more people are buying into the concept and are practising it. Colleagues that attended contributed different aspects that will build onto the existing strategy so that it is not only a local strategy but can be adopted on a wider basis, i.e. nationally and neighbouring countries.

One aspect that has been lacking is capacity building of everyone. Realised that communities and people from different institutes contribute a lot, in this way; can build each other's capacity in order to achieve our goals of restoring livelihoods and landscapes. One component that has never really been looked at in depth, was the markets and value chain. Meat naturally facilitating auctions and people making money by looking after grass, have made people stay in their areas. Tomorrow there is a milestone auction because we are hoping to hit the 10 million mark. People were concentrating on getting rid of unproductive livestock but now because they see the advantage, they are fattening their cattle for the market. Chiefs have been educating us a lot on the social and governance issues that need to be integrated into the programme. There are a lot of SA laws, there are local laws that most don't understand, need to be educated more on these, need to interact with communities to better understand. Learnt that our neighbours in Lesotho still experience a lot of degradation due to the laws and people not following them. They have come to see how we can work together, see how they can contribute in order to change the laws to make them more effective. There is a good chance and a lot of opportunities to make sure that this model is grown and becomes more effective and are able to cover a lot of areas, not ourselves but with colleagues in different areas especially with research institutions. Need to have a proper institutionalisation of the model and have people on the ground, people in different spheres of government so that we can achieve a lot and continue working together.

David: the event had an incredible amount of knowledge, expertise and engagement. Took a lot of theory into very deep practise and realised that the bits that have been put together over the years have shown that a programme can work if there are synergies. It was also a platform to make a lot of contact and will add value to the work they are implementing in this area.

Piet: there is a book by Andre London that has been published. Also in the process of producing a documentary on ultra-high density grazing, what it does on the landscape, restoration and probability.

Sarah: important to note that, in this area, there has been research that high density grazing is not appropriate.

Nicky: there is no one manual, there is high density grazing, the holistic model and others and then there are traditional methods; maboella, tobogasi, that haven't been documented or scientifically checked that are actually in a sense most appropriately because they are most acceptable and doable. Where this rangeland model is looking at what are all these scientific paradigms that have been tested and explored that have not actually worked on the ground. Some of the things coming out of the model are that it is not prescriptive but it is enabling. How to make things better through learning from Andre London, Allan Savory and others.

**e. Green Business value chain programme (David Gardner, AVOSION vision)**

The programme is now at the implementation stage. This is looking at getting ecological value chain of clearing wattle such as water flow and getting rid of fire risks. Need to start thinking about the economic value chain to make clearing more productive in a process. At the moment teams cut, do some erosion control and leave the material there. Involve private businesses to assess products that they can put into their own value chain and also look at adding BEE compliance in terms of some of the legislation put in these processes.

Mapping value chain; what are product potentials to take invasive biomass and make it productive. Producing a simulation tool which is training for business people and communities to try make people understand how they can get to this. Starting on Friday with a process that will take people through 18 months training programme. Looking in 3 areas but currently focussing on the first area which is the upper uMzimvubu catchment. Currently getting involved with those who are in the sector to look at how to work to make this work better. Will then look at other areas in Gauteng. Looking at when vegetation is, can we find products that we can make and start putting into a market for goods and services that come out of that sector and from that look into growing the biomass economy and in time also be looking at the carbon economy as well.

Will then do training with them to try and identify where they might assist and from that identify the opportunities; this is the point the UCPP is key and start looking at what are the key opportunities and how to start engaging those with small businesses. Want to unblock those so that not only want to increase the amount of invasive cleared but are also able to start looking at products and services that come out of that with the centre being small business development process. Starting out on Friday in a Dragon's den type of set-up here in Matatiele, the first 20 intake of the SMME training and development in the green business value chain process. Then go through the training and mentorship to help them understand how can they get into these procurement processes for different types of products, how can they supply sawmills and charcoal factories and furniture factories and all those agricultural products that may come out of this sector.

Will then start looking at how to make them more sustainable in their visible statuses as well as in their demand products that they can actually sell to people and link them to new opportunities which in the end will assist in their livelihoods as well. Ultimately want to improve water security by creating a biomass economy that in the process help with sustainable livelihoods. This will be done through NRM funding which will be linked to existing DEA/NRM projects.

**f. Charcoal and biomass production ideas (Nicky McLeod, ERS)**

Had a multimillion budget that was going to employ about 620 people in the Working for water DEA projects but the budget was cut to 15% of its original budget. DEA NRM has teams working and clearing hundreds of hectares and those are converted back into grazing, biochar element to improve the grazing, also looking at the meat off-take off the grazing. Looking at the 2 or 3 phased approach i.e. clearing the wattle – how does it pay for itself and what to do with the product once cleared, have lost that raw material and what to do with the regained land, have to make the land productive for grazing again and make the off take from grazing and meat naturally comes in with mobile auctions in villages where communities do not have to track animals and sell them in Cedarville or elsewhere they could get the market.

- First phase is clearing, pays for itself and what to turn that biomass into.
- Second phase is having restored areas which are providing grazing, water, how to sustain them?

The DEA budget cut has forced to look at other alternatives and with AVOCADO vision as a partner, meat naturally and Azanian charcoal group based near Mount Frere producing charcoal by cutting wood and selling charcoal. The charcoal is of high quality and has a market purchasing from them. The company is not yet registered BEE. Currently have 12 people on the ground hired for labour and have trained 20 of the Working for water teams from Mzongwana on how to make charcoal as an option to making money between their EPWP.

The process is stacking, press into drums (it's a reduced carbon oxidation process), and seal the drum with tiny gas holes. Process still needs a lot of technological improvement as it is generating a lot of emissions as smoke. Burning at over 400 degrees Celsius as it is converting the wood inside the drums into charcoal. The initial smoke is about 40 minutes, then it's smouldering for 5 hours then it's opened up and is a good quality charcoal that spar and pick 'n pay are purchasing from. The great spin off is generating livelihood opportunities for people using raw material, improving and augmenting the Working for water so that during the stopping in between these projects, people can still continue making income in selling raw material and assist them to become business people.

Currently drafting a Green Trust proposal with the partners, to field test this bigger concept. Great that AVOCADO is focusing on the uMzimvubu catchment, don't know much about markets and business but can work with people on the ground, have scientists on board and can do the local tests and feed into the bigger business thinking.

The Mzongwana, Makhoba, Sibi, Nkosana and Moshesh areas where there is the stewardship project were also supposed to be beneficiaries of the DEA project but with the budget cut, had to make another plan that is looking at the business model rather than dependent on state funding.

Sissie added: the group has found wattle useful through harvesting it to produce charcoal that they are selling. On the other side, the cutting techniques are not necessarily correct but their interest is more on supply. It is important that when intervening and working with groups like this, work with what they aspire and inspire them to do things correctly. Have trained a group from Mzongwana that know techniques of cutting wattle to stop regrowth, that is an opportunity for 2 community groups to educate each other on the pros and cons of doing things a certain way. Another aspect; is making sure that these young people are motivated to continue and grow their business. Also need to train be trained by a business expert with how to run a business, address issues associated with pollution. Working together would enable to address all these issues without discouraging the initiative that is already taking place within that community. Need refinement to get it to the next stage with assistance to do their business better and replicate to other groups.

Makhetha: there is also an opportunity of making wattle leaves a cattle fodder. Have made interaction with people experimenting with mixing different recipes.

David: local farmer experimenting but having similar issues with the exact recipe specifically keeping the leaves from spoiling. So the idea of clearing; and instead of burning those leaves making them into a product as well and also possibly linking them into a production facility where there is a charcoal kiln which uses much less energy and produces much less pollution and creates much more charcoal, still trying to make those links.

#### **g. Ecofutures update (Tsoanelo Shata, ERS and Amos Nkonyeni, CSA)**

Programme background:-

- Concept developed by UCPP partners and is being implemented by CSA and ERS.
- Aiming at exposing rural youth that have no access to tertiary education by enabling them to choose careers that will contribute to more green economy and resilient society.
- Rationale: within the ANDM there is an estimated 96% youth that has no access to tertiary education and the remaining 4 % are not retained in the municipality, they move to cities.
- The programme is looking at getting youth to choose careers that will help them to use resources that they have and still contribute to the local economy.
- Programme support through Greentrust funding that is focusing on the strategic water source areas and CSA through the CITI group foundation focusing on the wider ANDM

Update since last UCPP meeting in October 2017:

- Open call for applications that closed end October 2017
- Received 94 applications, 35 participants going through phase 1 which is awareness and training and will continue until end May 2018
- Pilot phase by these 2 organisation with a possible replication into other areas with the success of the project
- Themes outlined in the programme include; green energy (biogas production, solar and wind energy); wattle biomass value adding products (fodder and charcoal); ecotourism; waste recycling; stock farming support and citizen science
- Phase 1 is offering different skills to everyone so that those that do not make it to phase 2 still have the necessary skills that will help them further advance in their career choices or entrepreneurship aspirations
- Currently have 16 applicants that are doing computer literacy training that is encompassed by another training which will utilise those skills
- Sessions with experts presenting in these different themes
- Targeting participants who have sparky ideas but need guidance to execute
- Have had site visit to Matatiele landfill site that is about 10m deep, and this sparked good discussions with the participants that the municipality could look into, such as establishing a buy-pack centre, and also had some hygiene concerns, as most people are collecting there but the conditions are not good for human health.
- Visit to umAfrika recycling depot, where she's collecting plastic and paper, packing and transporting to a depot
- Visit to Agrispace where they are exploring different products from different raw materials, exploring the supply chain and market. Also exploring different recipe for wattle feed and compared this with local farmer's recipe. Both recipes still have storage challenges as the feed spoils if not consumed within a short period
- Visited Working for water teams to look at the wattle clearing techniques, health and safety, then followed by going to see a charcoal production plant as one of the biomass value chain products
- Some of the trainings included citizen science

Amos: Integrating all the green economy projects by encouraging youth participation, looking at those who have potential to become entrepreneurs or taking these themes as careers

Need step:

- Looking for host organisations that are willing host, organisations willing to expose them to these particular themes and activities.
- Organisations need to be able to train people

- Out of 21 participants, need 15 within the ANDM
- Working with 2 funds: CITI foundation funding that is focusing more on the wider ANDM while Green Trust is focusing on the strategic water source areas which is partly Matatiele so far
- Providing one month mentorship until end May
- Then select 8 candidates for phase 2 which will be from June 2018 –January 2019
- Candidates to go through mentorship programme in their chosen themes with UCPP partners during phase 2 until March 2019

Criteria for hosting organisations:

- Be within the uMzimvubu catchment
- Provide safe working environment
- Provide the candidate with a computer that has internet access
- Work and exposure should be in line with our M&E that will be shared with willing organisations
- Provide at least one and half hours for the online SCP course that will be undertaken by the candidates
- Number of working days will be arranged between programme coordinators and the host organisation
- Be willing to expose candidates as far as possible in their chosen themes

Apart from these, also provide technical training such as introductory to GIS, SCP course that is provided by UNDP tailor made for ecofutures. Those who have interest can still do the course as it is for the UCPP.

#### **Questions and comments**

Nicky: clarification that candidates will receive stipends to cover their travelling costs during mentorship, need organisations who will provide them hands on experience.

Vathiswa: meets the criteria as a host organisation but not based within the catchment and can provide all the resources. Can expose them to her work at the herbarium which will be of interest but because of the location, might not be feasible and can use assistance.

Sarah: MNP can take some people. SCP is very useful and candidates could need assistance as some of the videos are too technical as none of them have tertiary education.

Amos: Have engaged with the municipality, the AVOCADO Green business value chain and Ecofutures programme have been presented to them at the LED forum and have kept communication with the municipality.

#### **4. Upcoming events and announcements from partners**

- a. SANBI Ecological Infrastructure event late May 2018
- b. Upcoming auction – 12 April 2018 at Mzongwana
- c. Mvenyane auction – 25 April 2018
- d. Group of UCPP partners being led by INR are submitting a green economy expression of interest proposal

#### **5. Any other items and setting next meeting date:** next meeting date will be communicated via email in due course

#### **6. Closure and lunch!**

**Adoption of minutes:**

**Sign:** \_\_\_\_\_