



UCPP 8th QUARTERLY MEETING – 11 March 2015 minutes

Methodist hall, Matatiele

1. WELCOME & PRAYER:

Sinegugu Zukulu from CSA, chairperson of UCPP, welcomed everyone. Joyce Loza from MDTP opened in prayer.

2. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Please refer to attendance register attached. Members present represented WESSA, MDTP, ECPTA, CSA, LIMA, DEDEAT, FIREWISE/KISHUGU, ANDM, ERS, MCDCC, Matat Municipality, Royal Bakoena Trust. Guests from Scientific Roets, Walter Sisiulu University and Gamtoos Irrigation Board were also present.

Apologies submitted from Pumza Gasa-Lubelwana and Londi Mbikwana (DWS), Cllr Baba (Matat Ward 14), Nosisa Ndaba and Stanford Spotsi (DEDEAT), Sue Carter-Brown (rep LIMA), Cobus Theron (EWT), Brigid Letty (INR), Mahlodi Tau (SANBI), Francis Kuriah (WS University), Basetsana Khathali (ANDM), Greg Martindale (KZN Ezemvelo), Mark Dent (UKZN) and Sandy Heather and Nick King (SWC).

3. MATTERS ARISING AND FEEDBACK:

- a. Nolu Kwayimani from CSA asked for submissions for the Vubuzela newspaper for another run. Also indicated that DSTV Weather Channel will be coming to film some activities by partners in April.
- b. Nicky McLeod from ERS confirmed that the presentations from previous meetings can be accessed via the www.umzimvubu.org website, according to dates, under the page UCPP RECORDS.
- c. Sinegugu reported that the Bakoena Council workshop is postponed until a further date can be found to suit everyone.
- d. Piet Bosman reported on a great hike along the Wild Coast with Sinegugu and others, and encouraged others to do this trip if not yet experienced.
- e. Green economy day, water day events were successful, co-hosted by UCPP with DEDEAT and Municipalities (Alfred and Nzo and Matatiele) respectively. Upcoming wetland day event will be co-hosted with Matatiele LM, to be held on 19th March at Nchodu or Khoapa wetlands, all welcome.

4. PRESENTATIONS:

The theme for this session was stewardship. Unfortunately the guest chairperson for the session, Mr Toto Msaseni (ECPTA People & Parks manager) had a vehicle breakdown en route with guests from Lambasi CPA. Sinegugu chaired in Mr Msaseni's absence.

All presentations will be uploaded onto the Umzimvubu partnership's website.

4.1 UPDATE ON FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Joyce Loza from MDTP presented an outline of the integrated plan for the entire Transfrontier area, including E Cape, FS, KZN and Lesotho. This has been developed by partners over many months. The strategy is based on awareness as the foundation, with prevention as the first line of defence, including prescribed burning of breaks such as the proposed 64km open ended break facilitated by Kishugu / FireWise. The strategy also provides for co-ordination of institutions and resources, as well as emergency response, fire suppression, and post fire rehabilitation. It crosses provincial and national boundaries providing for collective commitment.

Questions / comments from floor:

- suggested involving the EcoSchools programme in the awareness phase, as well as Peer Educators from the various DEA clearing teams in the catchment.
- How often will a core team meet? Lwazi Khuzwayo from Kishugu indicated quarterly meetings initially

- Which is the main target area? Lwazi indicated focus on mountain communities in wards 11, 12 and 13 initially, with potential to include others like Mzongwana and ward 14 where alien clearing is creating huge dry biomass.
- New FPA manager for Matatiele will be supported by MDTP and Kishugu. DEA has allocated funds for recruiting and training 80 new fire prevention trainees
- AFIS monitoring system to be installed for early detection and monitoring.
- Request from DEDEAT for educational materials: Joyce will arrange this along with branding efforts, and Lwazi will co-ordinate a 'materials use' workshop.

4.2 STEWARDSHIP in COMMUNAL LANDSCAPES

Nicky presented a short summary of the communal custodianship interventions implemented by the CSA/ERS partnership, outlining current practises, influences and lessons. We have steered clear of naming the process, as stewardship has a connotation of legal processes and restrictions, and our aim is to develop better land care practise, through appropriate incentives, without burdensome formalities, which benefit both livelihoods and ecosystems.

4.3 BERG TO BEACH CONCEPT

Merida Roets presented an outline of the draft concept being prepared on behalf of the Alfred Nzo District, which looks at attractions based on cultural, biodiversity and scenic value. The aim is to increase the volume and length of stay of visitors in the region, which is just outside the day trip range of main centres like Durban. The initiative has a pro-poor focus, and will focus on various themes, including

- Cultural – women's initiation schools, heritage, customs
- Environmental – e.g. medicinal plant nurseries, forest sensory walk for disabled visitors
- Historical -
- Scientific – professional packages with speakers, with accommodation and exposure to field experiences

Will build on and augment existing products such a Mehloading trail and Ongeluksnek tourism facilities (presenter applauded Mehloading on a wonderful hiking experience). Will explore collaborative marketing links with other initiatives such as R56 Matat, Maloti Route etc. Based on voluntary membership and pledge to responsible tourism by service providers and visitors.

Suggestions from floor to include Ntsizwa mine and dolerite core, community conservation initiatives, Pondoland seed festival, homestays linked with adventure tourism (including Umzimvubu source 2 sea concept).

4.4 MATATIELE RESOURCE MOBILISATION COMMITTEE

Thando Msomi from Matatiele Local Municipality indicated that the Chief Whip's office has established an Environmental Lobby committee for resource mobilisation, which includes a developing a stewardship strategy for protecting the upper catchment water resources, as an essential 'water factory' for the greater Umzimvubu catchment. A meeting is being held with UCPP partners on 17th March to develop this strategy, to be driven by the Municipality, and endorsed by the politicians.

4.5 WITSIEHOEK STEWARDSHIP EXPERIENCE

Joyce Loza from MDTP presented a colourful summary of the process for providing support to the Witsieshoek communities in eastern Free State to protect their natural resources along the Berg foothills. Great progress has been made, with a wide range of The stakeholder consultation process provided enormous learning, which will be shared with the Matatiele stewardship stakeholders.

4.6 ROYAL BAKOENA TRADITIONAL COUNCIL TRUST

Ntate Makoro, chairperson of the Trust, gave a summary of his area and their vision, which is to make sustainable use of their resources and generate income opportunities for their youth. Alfred Nzo was born in the Thaba Chicha area, a heritage asset. The traditional authority covers 14 admin areas and 68 villages, including the Morulane, Lebelles and Jordan rivers. Livestock are seen as a key economic activity for people of Mabenyeng, base don healthy rangelands, and aquaculture is also viewed as an opportunity. Arable lands are under threat from wattle invasion and erosion. Local by-laws are implemented to protect land and users, e.g. fines for illegal grazing and arson, or not helping fight fires. Have revived *maboella* managed grazing to a degree. Request for fire fighting support.

Several UCPP partners are providing support for the Trust to develop its institutional profile and strategy.

4.7 LAMBASI CPA AND STEWARDSHIP EXPERIENCE

Sinegugu presented a summary in the absence of guests from Lambasi CPA. People were historically forcibly moved away from coast for betterment settlements, leaving coastal strip for grazing. Located in Pondoland Centre of Endemism, with tea plantations, coastal scenery and waterfalls as key activities and attractions. Southern boundary is Mkambati (Mtentu river), through Khutwene, Mfihlelo, Cathedral Rock, Waterfall bluff, past Lumphotwano (aka Lumphathana), across Mkweni mouth, including 21 villages under Xaukeni Royal House under Queen of Pondoland.

Conservation area of 7500 ha proposed from Mkweni south to Mlambomkulu, up to the 400m contour line inland. Livestock grazing agreements and game stocking are planned, with offsets from N2 development to support the conservation area. Land has been surveyed, but local factions and divergent visions from institutions are holding up progress. DEDEAT wants a biodiversity stewardship area, while ECPTA wants to proclaim a Protected Area. Letter submitted to MEC but no discussion to include Local Municipality and Traditional Authority.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Mosilo Kuali from Matat EDA outlined their Beyond 2014 Family Farming programme, and gave her full support for the stewardship efforts.
- b. Dean Ricketts from DEDEAT outlined their donga rehab project near Ntabankulu in conjunction with DAFF, and efforts to restart the proposed Siphephetu nature reserve along the Umzivubu river. Would like to facilitate exchange visits.
- c. Sinegugu mentioned a soil conservation training workshop to be run by Piet Bosman for ecorangers
- d. Lwazi Khuzwayo requested access to minutes sooner after the meetings
- e. Siphso Goge indicated that the MoU meeting for ONR is moved to the 16th April at the reserve
- f. Novusile Mbala from Gamtoos reported that only 4 of the 13 Mvenyane villages are working under WfW programme. Mvenyane people have requested Matat LM to develop tourism attractions such as hiking trails, forest resources etc. Would like to join soil conservation training by Piet mentioned by Sinegugu.
- g. Nicky reminded everyone of Global Water Day being hosted with Matat LM on 19th, and encouraged everyone to attend. Venue to be confirmed between Nchodu and Khoapa wetlands.
- h. Kerry from WESSA asked for a small gathering during lunch for those interested in setting up a workshop to hear about their capacity building programmes.

6. NEXT MEETING: agreed for Wednesday 3rd June, same venue.

Merida Roets voiced her appreciation and support for this alliance as a sharing and learning platform.

Sinegugu thanked everyone for attending, and invited all to join the lunch being served courtesy of CEPF.