



## NLEIP Science-Management Meeting 5-7 December 2017 – First announcement

Apart from an earlier “save-the-dates” announcement, this is the first (now slightly more detailed one) on the basis of which you may be able to assess your attendance and participation. Once some of you have responded, (particularly for Day 1, which is open to any relevant submissions, see below) we will be able to set up a final programme, which we will send out. If you are already sure, you will be attending, feel free to indicate to Karen Milne (see below). We would prefer you to do this rather than wait. Otherwise, you will be reminded once the final programme is sent out, but by then it may well be too late to suggest a presentation, though you will still be able to decide to attend.

### Day 1: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Dec – Formal presentations (Annual Research Colloquium)

Although NLEIP is a trans-disciplinary programme with emergent properties, we have been requested to once a year have a full day of more conventional presentations. This gives scholars and managers and anyone else who wishes, a chance to present something formal and well structured, as long as it is of reasonable relevance to NLEIP. The talk (we encourage use of a PowerPoint presentation, but this is not obligatory) is then presented sensibly to peers, and critiqued. It may range from a strict technical discipline (as is historically the case for a research colloquium) or – and we welcome any of these - from a business, administrative, managerial, traditional, advocacy, philosophical and/or experiential field. In fact, any field you believe of relevance. Apart from relevance, the only requirement is that you submit an extended abstract of about approximately 750 words which we will print in a small font on one page and distribute. Please do not offer a presentation if you are not prepared to make your extended abstract freely available. Unless you explicitly state otherwise, any PowerPoint presentation you give will be put into .pdf form and made available to interested persons. If you wish to present, PLEASE SUPPLY YOUR TITLE to Karen by **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November** and your EXTENDED ABSTRACT OF ~750 words either, at the same time or at the latest by **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November**. Depending on the number of submissions received, the time given for a talk will either be 10+5 mins or 15+5 mins (the + being discussion time which presenters who talk too long will use up!). We are acutely aware that many (esp. Honours) students will have already left on vacation, but we are nevertheless forming the idea that we are likely to have a full and interesting day. If not, we will adapt accordingly, but promise a useful experience overall.

The keynote address (the only longer presentation of the day) will be given first up by Prof Kate Rowntree, and will be a summary of the relevance to NLEIP of the final report on the Green Village (which she is currently submitting to the WRC) This project is a major contribution requiring good reflection by all.

The last session in the afternoon on Day 1 will be an overall reflection session, where the meaning of the whole bundle of presentations will be thought about and discussed, especially with a view to integration and learning. A five to ten minute slot in this session will deal with PMERL (Participative Monitoring, Evaluation, Reflection and Learning) aspects, keeping us on our toes in a reflexive way that we have to aspire to turn into productive fun rather than drudgery. This PMERL “bird-on-our-shoulder” might continue talking to us throughout the remaining two days.





Day 2 – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

**The morning session** will deal with one of the main recommendations of the last SciMan meeting held in July, namely that we go over the basics of **our approach to grazing and fire**. In this process we will strive to if possible obtain more coherence in thinking amongst our technical, managerial (and, as part of our now increasing engagement, amongst residents and resource users too) - especially but not only in communal land. As was pointed out in July, this is key to catchment rehabilitation, and is where much of the disagreement lies. An aspirational outcome would be the formation of a Community of Practice or CoP - potentially our fourth one, possibly stretching even across both NLEIP and UCPP - aka Umzimvubu Catchment Partnership Programme. But, we don't think this should happen before at least one field visit to Matatiele (planned for early next year – details at meeting) where such practices to the benefit of communal livelihoods are already under development. So, this session should be considered the background conceptual component, where the different approaches are reviewed and the history of the core debates summarised and understood, alongside the most recent developments and with suggestions as to ways forward. Economic benefits of enhanced ecosystem services, and some key points in the value chain towards improved communal livelihoods will come under discussion, particularly as much of the historical debate has centred around the biophysical.

*Provisional agreement to present so far: Susi Vetter, Heidi-Jayne Hawkins, Rina Grant and James Blignaut. We are still developing this session but believe we have a good initial scene-setting team.*

The **Wednesday afternoon session** will consist of two components:

- (a) **TCTA (Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority, implementing agent for the Mzimvubu Water Project) – our new partners, will introduce themselves and their Charter.** Importantly we will also hope to be able to meet with them informally at the evening event, and expose them to our approaches, particularly through their Integrated Catchment Workstream chaired by NLEIP through Michael Kawa. They also have engagement initiatives running but only in the immediate dams' and Water Scheme footprint.
  
- (b) **Update on our own engagement initiatives, and plans for the immediate future.** At the July meeting this had barely begun, but this session formed a highlight of interest there. The team will now bring back their results over a wider area, which will feed critically into our recommendations and into local integration and decision-making. The NLEIP Lalini stakeholder analysis has now also begun, and will have early results to share.

**There will be time for discussion about the way ahead now.**

**Evening meal will be provided, to allow attendees to mix.**





Day 3 – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December

**This day will be devoted entirely to (and run by) our three Communities of Practice, namely**

- Sediment and Restoration
- Livelihoods and Ecosystem Services
- Governance

Most of you receiving this notice are aware of their activities (if not, you are welcome to request newsletters from earlier Science-Management meetings from Karen). Each CoP co-ordinator will submit a program for both their plenary and breakaway session. These programmes will have talk titles for inclusion in the next programme to be circulated. There is likely to be a variety of approaches but since each operate under the broad NLEIP mission, we believe that out of their activities will emerge useful results both satisfying to the CoP participants, yet able to be integrated meaningfully into the bigger picture used by the current NLEIP implementers (our so-called “core B-team”) and increasingly by our wider constituency.

This novel way of working helps us to split off into relatively informal interest groups – the idea being that they keep themselves going based on a common interest (and a bit of help from us), but that each CoP is also committed to sensible integration towards the overall social-ecological system goal. Herein lies one way to approach the paradox of splitting/focussing compared to joining/integrating, in which we are increasingly developing skills.

There will be three plenaries (one by each CoP, approximately 40 mins each, first up before tea), then three parallel group sessions (perhaps an hour and a half) with brief feedbacks (10 mins each in plenary)

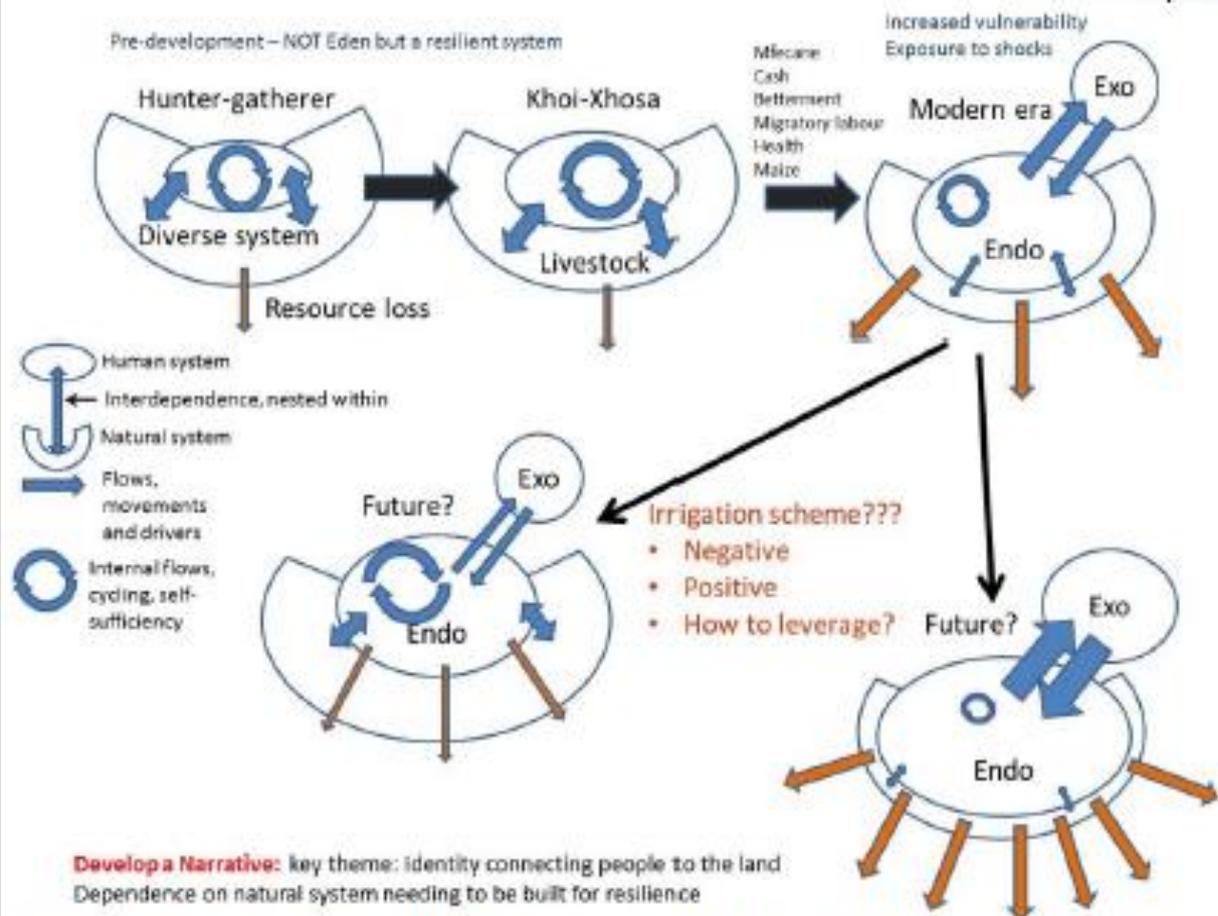
**After lunch, we will run a synthesis or integration session, and wrap up by 3.30pm.** This time, instead of further developing principles of integration, we plan to apply these principles to particular promising (or important but very difficult) particular case situations. We cannot solve all the challenges at once everywhere, so will carefully try to choose particular settings (from different configurations e.g. not all village-level sustainability issues) and examine the meaning of integration to these particular situations. We hope to find this both useful and motivating.





**BOX 1: Likely changes in the SES framework over time-eras: past, present and into the future**

Discussion at the November 2015 meeting led a participant to suggest one could reasonably speculate as to a time-series of (here simplified) SES frameworks and how they evolved in the past to reach the current state, and imagine possible future scenarios that assisted constructive thinking about the catchment trajectory. He drew Figure 8 below and presented it on day two. The audience deemed this very useful and suggested its inclusion into the report.



**Figure 7: Possible changes over time eras in the Tsitsa catchment SES (provided by D. le Maitre).** Two historical eras are represented (hunter-gatherer and Khoi-Xhosa) followed by the current modern-day situation, followed by two provocative but plausible future scenarios. Each particular era's SES has the same basic structure – a human system nested in a natural system, with two-way interactions between these; an interlinked internal and endogenous human activity cycle; brown arrows indicating resource loss; and in the current and two possible future eras when influences from outside (of the catchment) are deemed significant, blue arrows connecting endogenous to these outside (exogenous) influences. The two (resilient) historical eras show no or little outside influence, and low resource loss even though the second era has a slightly higher human system imprint. The vulnerable modern era shows an even larger internal human system, with strong back-and-forth links to significant outside influence, yet much resource loss (degradation). Two possible futures, diverging depending on how, inter alia, the "irrigation scheme" is handled, show (in the left hand one) that external dependencies can be reduced and a containable human imprint with stronger internal activity and system resilience could lead to lower resource loss. Alternately (right hand scenario) the human imprint can grow, but with little or even negative growth in internal activity, escalating dependency on outside, and possibly even greater resource loss.

While Figure 7 is not necessarily accurate, it depicts related elements which do prompt the opportunity to think systemically over time. With refinement, engagement and appropriate presentation, it may possibly act as a basis for a compelling "high road vs low road" portrayal.





# RSVP Form

to send to Karen Milne at [k.milne@ru.ac.za](mailto:k.milne@ru.ac.za)

Name .....

Institute or Affiliation .....

Phone contact .....

Email if different from that from which this was sent

I will attend the NLEIP Science-Management Meeting in December (tick what you will attend)

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>

The Evening Group Meal on the 6<sup>th</sup>

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>

For lunches and the dinner: My dietary preference is ....

I wish to give a presentation on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>

Title of Presentation (must be submitted by 7 Nov. Karen will acknowledge receipt, or else enquire)

Is the extended abstract (about 750 words) attached? Yes/No (if not, it must be submitted to Karen by latest Tuesday 21 Nov. Karen will acknowledge receipt, or else enquire)

Photo credit: Dylan Weyer

