



UCPP UPDATE NEWSFLASH #1: MARCH 2017 16th QUARTERLY SPECIAL SESSION

A week-long gathering of partners, who have signed a basic Memorandum of Understanding to form the UMZIMVUBU CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME (UCPP), was held in Matatiele from 6 to 10 March, as part of the 16th quarterly gathering of this voluntary catchment alliance. The MoU was signed by over 30 partners in early 2013. Highlights from this week's gathering include:

- **Strategic expansion into phase 2:** both the UCPP strategic planning, and the SANBI/DST RDI platform (research, development and innovation) sessions, identified that the alliance needs to upscale towards the original wider 20 year vision, i.e. moving from phase 1 to phase 2. Participants agreed that UCPP should function as an 'umbrella catchment body' for the entire basin, supporting current geographic nodes of NLEIP, SWC and the Matat-based UCPP 'chapter', where research and communities of practise already exist. The current research activities within these nodes should continue: the RDI platform will facilitate 'inter-nodal' learning and exchanges across the wider catchment, as well as sharing with other catchments like UEIP and Berg 'n Breede. All agreed that this will add tremendous value to the current but geographically constrained 'nodal' activities. The two stronger 'chapters' at Matatiele and Ntabelanga should provide the core niches for special working groups to explore successful and new methodologies and technical exchanges.
- **Sinegugu Zukulu remains as the Chairperson** (a minor mutiny ensured he can't step down!) and he will be supported by three deputies, namely Ms. Basetsana Khathali (ANDM), Mr. Dean Ricketts (DEDEAT) and Ms. Nolufefe Nonjeke-Dlanjwa (SaveAct), with ERS as the secretariat, with WWF Nedbank Green Trust support for the next 2,5 years. This system will ensure continuity, optimising Sinegugu's irreplaceable skills and respected reputation across the catchment.
- **Learning exchanges** will include CMF development, livelihoods and rangeland restoration, sediment monitoring, research programme development, biodiversity database development for the wider catchment and an annual uMzimvubu catchment CoPs showcase fair (see Newsflash #4).
- **Meat Naturally Auctions around Matatiele:**
 - 29 March at Mzongwana
 - 19 April at Mafube
 - 17 May at Ongeluksnek
- **uMzimvubu classification:** remember to submit comments on sub-quaternal catchment issues as soon as possible to patsy@itsnet.co.za. Spreadsheet and maps can be found at <https://umzimvubu.org/projects/water/> . PLEASE COMMENT BEFORE 31 March 2017.
- **EGS Comparative analysis** – excellent workshop on 9th and 10th with Zunckel ecological & Environmental Services: an outline of the tool is posted at <https://umzimvubu.org/training/> Next session will be on Friday 21st April in Matatiele.

Next quarterly meeting on 21 June 2017 at Scientific Roets AgriSETA hub near Kokstad