

# UCPP UPDATE NEWSFLASH #10: August 2017

## ***IDENTIFYING THE REAL CATCHMENT RESEARCH NEEDS***

As part of the SANBI and DST-supported Research, Development & Innovation platform (RDI) for the uMzimvubu catchment, a three day Research Programme Formulation Process was undertaken in mid August, through a multi-stakeholder process, using the ISNAR-IFPRI\* methodology. The workshop was facilitated on a voluntary basis by the UCPP Research co-ordinator, Dr Merida Roets, from local partner, Scientific Roets. Over 30 participants from UCPP and NLEIP partners actively participated: these included SANBI, Rhodes university, DEDEAT, ECPTA, Cedara, Conservation SA, DAFF, Transkinirha Community Trust, and ERS. The RDI platform co-ordinator from Berg and Breede catchment, Living Lands, also joined the session.

The outcomes of the process resulted in the identification of key research needs in the areas of:

- Degradation
- Biodiversity
- Resilience
- IKS (Indigenous knowledge systems)
- Food security

These research sub-themes were further unpacked resulting in a collection of approximately 20 research programmes, as follows:

Sub-Theme 1: Resilience:

- Communication for climate-change adaptation
- Analysis for collaborative planning for equity
- Assessing the social drivers that inform action for climate change adaptation
- Developing integrated interventions for natural system resilience



Sub-Theme 2: Degradation

- Sustainable rangeland management
- Invasive alien plants impact on rural livelihoods and water - Containing alien invasive species
- Re-valuing water
- Making the links between ecological infrastructure and sand mining - Soil conservation
- Permitted dam construction

Sub-Theme 3: Food security

- Food for healthy families and communities
- Promoting rural entrepreneurship
- Towards an economically active Umzimvubu Catchment population – Diversify resources to sustain livelihoods



Sub-Theme 4: IKS

- Integrating IKS and Technology
- Bridging the gap between IKS and legislation
- Valorising IKS in the Umzimvubu Catchment

Sub-Theme 5: Biodiversity

- Expand protected areas “landscape approach” through effective stewardship mechanisms
- Control of veld fires and proper use of fires as a management tool
- Baseline biodiversity data
- Positive human-natural relations
- Effective wildlife management



Each of these Research programme themes can now be further developed through multi-stakeholder engagements leading to detailed and targeted research projects for implementation. A basic log frame outline is being refined, and the information will provide the basis for both for applying for research funding as well as guiding research efforts with the limited resources available. Thanks to all who participated and shared their valuable insights, and to SANBI /DST and WWF Nedbank Green Trust for their support.