



## UCPP UPDATE NEWSFLASH #3: MARCH 2017

### STRATEGIC EXPANSION & RESEARCH CO-ORDINATION

The UCPP 20 year vision, drafted in late 2012, provides a framework for collective action to develop and implement a catchment management strategy and restoration plan for the entire Umzimvubu River corridor.

The UCPP MoU, signed in early 2013 by more than 30 stakeholders from civil society, state, traditional leadership and local government, states that *'the Umzimvubu Catchment Partnership Programme aims to conserve the full extent of the Umzimvubu River system (from source to sea) through the sustainable restoration and maintenance of the catchment area in a manner that supports economic development and job creation for local people and enhances flow of benefits from ecosystem goods and services to people and nature'*.

The partners held a strategic planning session in early March 2017, and along with the inaugural SANBI/DST supported RDI platform session (for research, development and innovation), the following was proposed:

- the UCPP alliance needs to upscale towards its original wider 20 year vision, i.e. moving from phase 1 to phase 2 (see table below).
- participants agreed that UCPP should function as an 'umbrella catchment body' for the entire basin, supporting the current three geographic nodes of NLEIP, SWC and the Matat-based UCPP 'chapter', where research and active communities of practise (CoPs) 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.
- The RDI platform's role will augment the expansion and replication vision for phase 2, beyond the 'Matatiele-focus chapter' of UCPP's phase 1. ERS is appointed as co-ordinator of the catchment wide RDI platform, and will support the co-ordinators of each of the nodes.
- WWF Nedbank Green Trust has allocated funds to support water security efforts and expansion of the rangeland stewardship model in the upper catchment Matatiele area (southern Drakensberg and north Eastern cape SWSAs /Strategic Water Source Areas) through ERS as executants. This WWF Nedbank Green Trust funding and the SANBI/DST support will complement and not duplicate one another, with the latter facilitating a catchment wide spread beyond the SWSAs focus.
- UCPP operates on a voluntary basis, and expansion and replication efforts beyond the current phase 1 upper catchment focal area would be constrained without the supportive platform of the RDI initiative. A series of learning exchanges has been drafted: see newsflash # 4 on proposed learning exchanges and innovation events for 2017.

PHASE	TIMING	KEY OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES of EACH PHASE
1	Years 1 - 5	<b>Awareness &amp; Action learning:</b> focus on establishing demonstration projects in collaboration with existing initiatives, develop baselines for the area through research and M&E framework, formalise collaboration and extract lessons learnt. Establish seller side of PES structures through stewardship. Identify possible buyers / markets. Develop basic policy strategy.
2	Years 6 - 10	<b>Replication:</b> share lessons learnt into possible models/approaches, replicate or upscale projects in wider river basin geography based on models from demonstration, formalize governance processes, policy influence through advocacy based on lessons learnt.
3	Years 11-15	<b>Policy influence &amp; Adoption:</b> supporting governance structures to adopt working models for improved catchment management, expand in wider catchment, bigger policy focus and influence
4	Years 15 -20	<b>Entrenchment:</b> measure wider ecosystem impacts from initial phases, provide ongoing support for improved governance and policy, continued monitoring and advocacy, finalise exit strategy with responsibility for communal PES management resolved