

UCPP UPDATE NEWSFLASH # 4: MARCH 2017

PROPOSED LEARNING EXCHANGES FOR 2017

THEME	CORE GROUP & SUPPORT	TIMEFRAME
Exploring the establishment of effective CMFs at practical sub catchment level. This will align with and build on the three existing nodes at Ntabelanga, Matatiele and Port St Johns.	Laura Conde, PhD candidate from Rhodes Integrated Water Research Unit has secured funding support for an intensive 3-way exchange between nodes. Will link with ERS for logistics arrangements.	Between April and August 2017
Livelihood support and rangeland restoration through grazing management – showcase of pilot successes in Matatiele, and learn from concepts developed for Ntabelanga.	NLEIP (Prof Kate Rowntree and Mike Powell) with Meat Naturally and ERS have started discussions around collaboration and reciprocal learning visits between areas. WWF has some funding support to compliment implementation of agreed strategies emerging from the shared learning. UKZN, WSU and Rhodes M.Sc. and Ph.D. students to assist and participate.	NLEIP reps attend auctions in March, April, May in Matatiele area for exposure to implementation. Arrange initial learning workshop during second quarter 2017 to explore mobilisation, livelihood lessons, grazing practises, technical elements around animal health and grassland science, markets, etc.
Research programme formulation – developing relevant themes based on gap analysis with stakeholders, which can contribute to Green economy business ideas	Dr Merida Roets, UCPP matat research group co-ordinator, has led several of these sessions on various continents – aim is to build on the original phase 1 UCPP research group’s formation of more effective and well targeted practitioner–researcher links, and convert appropriate themes into local biodiversity-based business ideas through value-adding to production chain. Develop ‘rules of engagement’ for researcher involvement and optimising feedback to Communities of Practise.	16 – 18 May 2017 in Matatiele, linked with MNP auction at Motseng on 17 May
Sediment monitoring techniques and data capture	Laura Bannatyne, PhD candidate from Rhodes will share information with ERS and set up a training session, exploring means for low cost regular sediment monitoring involving citizens and rigorous science approaches.	From April 2017 onwards
Sharing the complimentary ‘nodal’ development experiences: drawing from Matatiele UCPP ‘organic collaboration’ and NLEIP structured approach for optimal application across nodes and potentially down catchment	Mike Powell and Harry Biggs to assist Matatiele stakeholders with framework and systems thinking, and Matatiele core team from CSA, ERS, WESSA etc to share success stories of collaboration, with assistance from Dartmouth college in October.	July 2017 onwards
Biodiversity database caching and accessibility	Nelson Odume (PhD at Rhodes) with Dr. Merida Roets (Scientific Roets) and Nicky McLeod (ERS) to explore ways of best capturing and sharing (with credit to IP sources) spatial information, to develop a one-stop data-shop for the wider catchment, making use of existing UCPP website as a repository. Explore IP issues and make recommendations for terms of use and public domain sharing.	From April 2017
uMzimvubu catchment annual RDI showcase fair	Nodal research co-ordinators Merida and Mike to lead ideas, including three day ‘fair’ in central accessible location in catchment for all interested RDI stakeholders across catchment to show case and share work through posters, talks, learning activities and field visits. Budget will need to be sourced to complement existing RDI allocation. This will contribute to the national EI event in 2018	Third quarter 2017 (October to December)