LANDSCAPES & LIVELIHOODS: Rangeland Stewardship through the ‘Meat Naturally’ approach
UCPP Vision: to build stewardship capacity among community groups in the upper Umzimvubu catchment, through establishing replicable demonstration projects which restore watershed functions, and to position these groups as potential sellers (and beneficiaries) of such services to be integrated into the conservation economy.
stewardship (noun)
the act of taking care or managing something, for example property, an organization, money or valuable objects; responsible land use
CATCHMENT AWARENESS and ACTION... BUILDING CITIZEN SCIENTISTS
enabling rural youth to choose green economy career paths which contribute to a more resilient society
GOOD STEWARDSHIP

HEALTHY ECOSYSTEM & GRASSLAND

MORE PRODUCTIVE LIVESTOCK

RED MEAT RETURNS

LIVESTOCK HEALTH & MARKET ACCESS

COMMUNITY MOBILISATION & GOOD GOVERNANCE

WAGES & TRAINING

IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS
KEY ELEMENTS

SOCIAL:
- Institutional and governance issues,
- Communication, decision making, co-operation
- Incentives and agreements

TECHNICAL:
- Restoring ecological functions,
- Animal health and production,
- Optimising veld and soil quality,
- Securing biodiversity

DEAL BREAKERS...external factors over which we have little influence, but which may define parameters and ‘push’ innovation e.g. fire, stock theft, political upheaval, etc
HEALTHY HOUSEHOLDS WITH INCOME/IKHAYA ELIPHILILE ELINENGENISO

PRODUCTIVE LIVESTOCK & WATER SECURITY/IMFUYO EYONDLEKILEYO
NOKHUSELEKO LWAMANZI

HEALTHY RANGELAND THROUGH GOOD STEWARDSHIP PRACTISE/
AMADELELO AMAHLE NENDLELA YOKUGCINWA KWEMFUYO

COMMUNITY WORKING TOGETHER WITH STRONG LEADERSHIP &
CO-OPERATION/INTSEBENZISWANO KUBAHLALI NABAPHATHI
By focusing on good governance and improved livelihoods from enhanced livestock production, we can promote sustainable rangeland restoration, increased water security, and resilient communities with healthy ecological infrastructure in communal landscapes.
Increasing rangeland pressure / degradation increases biodiversity / services.
‘STAGES’ ... STEPS ... 

1. Mobilise leadership & stock owners, through opportunity to augment livelihoods selling stock off healthy landscape 

2. Introduce incentives & awareness to catalyse participation (husbandry support, EPWP green jobs, auctions, etc) 

3. Develop conservation agreements between farmers, leadership and agent, with clear incentives & sanctions 

4. Leadership & farmers plan grazing and resting areas – fit with ecological need and governance capacity of area 

5. Ecorangers provide husbandry services and agreement compliance monitoring support, in conjunction with agent 

6. Mobile auctions provide market access and income for stock owners, commissions linked to compliance 

7. Monitor compliance, adapt, revise agreements, expand...
LANDUSER NEGOTIATION
Wattle as stock feed
Communal grazing management for restoration of grassland and improvement of livestock

Palatable/desirable grass species disappear over time due to continual grazing and veld is dominated by undesirables lowering grazing capacity.

Normal daily movement of livestock to and from distant rangelands impairs animal production and gain and result in cattle paths becoming eroded dongas.

To improve and **restore veld and grazing** as well as animal condition:

**Grass growth and need for rest = stop continual-selective grazing replace with ROTATIONAL GRAZING**
DPM READINGS - BIOMASS INCREASE IN RESTED AREA, MZONGWANA
# RESTORATION BENEFITS

## BIOPHYSICAL
- Improved rainfall effectiveness
- Improved annual baseflow
- Reduced soil loss and siltation
- Reduced flood damage
- Improved carbon storage
- Improved aesthetics

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC
- Livelihood income and Green jobs
- Increased grazing quality & capacity
- Reduced stock theft and fire vigilance
- Retain rural richness and value of ‘place’
- Economic production off natural landscape
BENEFITS of PILOT PHASE 2014-2017

- 1280 cattle sold off communal rangelands
- 55 villages >R7.5 million sales
- 190 households, average income R43 000 / year
- 255 ‘jobs’ (EPWP equivalent)
- 5000 ha improved grassland (biomass, cover and composition)
- Stocking rates improved
- Animal health & productivity increased
**MEAT NATURALLY ON THE GROUND**

**Benefits Perceived by Local Communities***

**PERCEIVED CATTLE HEALTH**

- Improved a Lot: 26%
- Improved: 26%
- No Change: 63%
- No Idea: 4%

MNI’s land management training and stewardship has led to vast improvements in cattle health for participating communities in Matalene.

**PERCEIVED FREQUENCY OF DISEASES**

- No Change: 67%
- Decreased: 33%

**PERCEIVED RANGELAND QUALITY**

- Improve a Lot: 48%
- Improve: 48%
- No Change: 4%

The presence of wattle, an alien invasive species, poses huge threats to rangeland quality and water security.

The clearing of wattle by Ecorangers has improved rangeland quality and soil health in the region.

**PERCEIVED REGIONAL QUALITY OF LIFE**

- Improved a Lot: 70%
- Improved: 22%
- No Change: 8%

With improved incomes and job opportunities through the mobile cattle auctions, quality of life has improved for member communities.

**AUCTION PRICE SATISFACTION**

- No: 91%
- Yes: 9%

*constructed using data collected from community surveys*
STRENGTHENING LANDSCAPE RESILIENCE FOR ECOLOGICAL SERVICE DELIVERY IN THE UPPER UMZIMVUBU CATCHMENT

enhancing livelihoods - securing biodiversity - inspiring opportunity
LESSONS:

RESTORING GOOD GOVERNANCE IS A PRECURSOR FOR RESTORING DEGRADED LANDSCAPES

CATTLE, FIRE AND COMMUNAL PROCESSES ARE TOOLS, NOT PROBLEMS

ENABLE MANAGEMENT RATHER THAN CREATING JOBS…JOBS WITHOUT THE JOB FUND

PICK YOUR BATTLE ZONES FOR STEWARDSHIP BUY-IN

INTERVENTIONS SHOULD BE REPLICABLE, NOT JUST PROJECTS

MORE RESEARCH, MONITORING, SHARING …‘BEST PRACTICE’
“We view sustainability as an emergent property of stakeholder interaction, and not just a technical property of the ecosystem.”