Technical strategies for restoring post-cleared sites and degraded grasslands

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“The Umzimvubu Catchment Management and Rehabilitation Project”
Types of degradation to address

- Cattle and human paths
- Deep gullies
- Old, unused roads
- Areas left bare after clearing
- Steep slopes left bare after clearing
- Actively eroding gullies
Interventions

- Stone lines
- Stone packs
- Brush packs
- Ponds
- Seed banks
- Grassing (seed, rhizomes, sods)
- Removing invasive woody plants
- Tools
  - Use of an A-frame for marking contours
  - Controlling animal movements
Principles

• Slow down water
• Increase infiltration
• Trap soil
• Hold soil
• Permanent versus temporary interventions
• Use local resources
• ENCOURAGE INNOVATION
Where should we work?

- Active erosion
- Low hanging fruits
- Within manual labour scope
- What is the function / impact in the bigger landscape?
- What is the objective? End goal?
- Start at the top and work down
Dealing with old roads

- Brush packs
- Kikuyu strips
Dealing with extensively eroded slopes

Brush packs
Kikuyu strips
Keeping cattle out of areas being restored
Dealing with bare slopes post-clearing
Using an A-frame to mark contours
Dealing with areas bare after clearing

- Ponding
Accelerating grass cover
Using brush to protect planted areas
Seed banks
Removing invasive woody plants
Stabilising gullies
• Using brushpacks
Dealing with active gulley erosion
Re-establishing cover
Planting grass
Seeding
Stabilising cattle paths
Reshaping gullies
Stone packs
Dealing with deep gullies
Gulley stabilisation
Rotational resting
Condition score 1
Backbone prominent
Hips and shoulder heavy
Ribs clearly visible
Tail-head area rece
Skeletal body outline

Condition score 2
Backbone visible
Hips and shoulder heavy
Ribs visible faintly
Tail-head area slightly
Body outline bony

Condition score 3
Hip bones visible faintly
Ribs generally not visible
Tail-head area not cut
Body outline almost normal

Condition score 4
Hip bones not visible
Ribs well covered
Tail-head area slight
Body outline round

Condition score 5
Hip bones showing
Ribs very well covered
Tail-head area very visible
Body outline bulging
Next challenge....