In March 2017, phase 1 of the planned UCPP strategy (see figure of phases) was reviewed, facilitated by Prof Nick King. In November 2018 during the UCPP quarterly meeting, partners planned to do a review of progress: this took place in Matatiele from 12 – 13 February 2019. Prior to the workshop, a process was followed which included designing a framework, and circulating a simple on-line survey, to gather information on how participants view the UCPP as a holding space, its impact and value, willingness to continue participating, what more can be done, and how to do things better. See box below for an example of the survey feedback, which was overwhelmingly positive with 21 respondents.

The workshop was well attended by a wide range of stakeholders, both signed-on partners and ‘supporters’, including SANBI, WWF-SA, DEA, Solidaridad, LIMA, DAFF, Conservation International and many local partners. The workshop was ably facilitated by Aimee Ginsburg, an independent consultant from SE Benefits. Day 1 of the workshop involved a presentation by the secretariat, looking at where we started and where we at. Successes of projects, lessons learnt and gaps in preparation for upscaling to other parts of the catchment were discussed. This was followed by evaluating the purpose, mission, vision and the values that drive and keep the partnership together. Day 2 reviewed the original 20 year vision that is comprised of 4 phases (table above). Partners agreed that some of the activities were achieved and proposed recommendations for expanding those, but noted that some activities could not be achieved on the ground e.g. PES: in principle downstream users should be paying upstream users for the initiatives contributing to water quality. This was recognised through the “landscapes and livelihoods” models which has innovated a type of ‘in-situ’ PES thorough rangeland management incentives deriving benefits for land users through improved stewardship practices.

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

The purpose, mission and vision as populated by partners

This was an exciting workshop that allowed innovative learning, networking, forming new partnerships and collaborations, and highlighting gaps for research and development. Innovations coming out are highly applicable to the landscape, and directly benefit rural livehoods, helping put into practise the mission statement of the UCP:

“Together we do more for people and the environment in the uMzimvubu catchment”.

Workshop supported by WWF-Nedbank GreenTrust, and SANBI/DST under the RDI platform for supporting the coordination of catchment partnerships. Thanks to all those who supported and make UCP so effective!