



HANDBOOK OF TOOLS FOR COMMUNAL WATERSHED RESTORATION

Exploring efficient governance strategies for watershed
conservation in communal areas



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*Water Research Commission
Private Bag X03
Gezina
0031*

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Handbook of tools for communal watershed restoration

Exploring efficient governance strategies for watershed conservation in communal areas

Sissie Matela¹, Nicky McLeod¹, Betty Mubangizi², Kevan Zunckel³, Samir Randerer-Rees⁴, Mzukisi Kuse⁵, and Thabang Quali⁶

¹Environmental & Rural Solutions; ²University of Kwazulu Natal, school of Governance; ³Zunckel Ecological & Environmental Services³; ⁴WWF SA⁴; ⁵Rhodes University, school of Geography⁵; ⁶CONTRALESA⁶

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INTRODUCTION

This handbook is a compilation of the experiences and lessons learned from over two decades of community engagement and implementation of various programmes based on identified landscape and livelihood needs in the Upper Umzimbuvu River catchment. Primarily, what has been captured are interventions involving a locally-based NGO, Environmental and Rural Solutions (ERS), their youth outreach team and several implementing partners in the catchment. The handbook captures and acknowledges the multifaceted nature of governance in rural landscapes, addressing the structures and the processes that shape decision-making. It recognises that effective governance requires a holistic approach encompassing institutional frameworks and the practical aspects of steering processes within those institutions. It also acknowledges meaningful engagement, effective action and visible change.

The compilation of the handbook brings together a wealth of knowledge, best practices, and lessons learned from various experiences in rural landscape governance. It aims to provide communities and other agencies with a simple reference guide, with links to more detailed tools and guidance necessary to navigate the complexities of decision-making, resource management, and stakeholder engagement in their specific context, which foster real stewardship.

The key element here is not describing the tools in detail, but rather a focus on HOW the tools and interventions have been applied through the agency of youth 'ecochamps', who have become a powerful extension service across the upper Umzimvubu River catchment. There have been various state and corporate funded job creation programmes with a focus on youth, and these experiences have been incorporated.

ORIGIN OF THE TOOLS

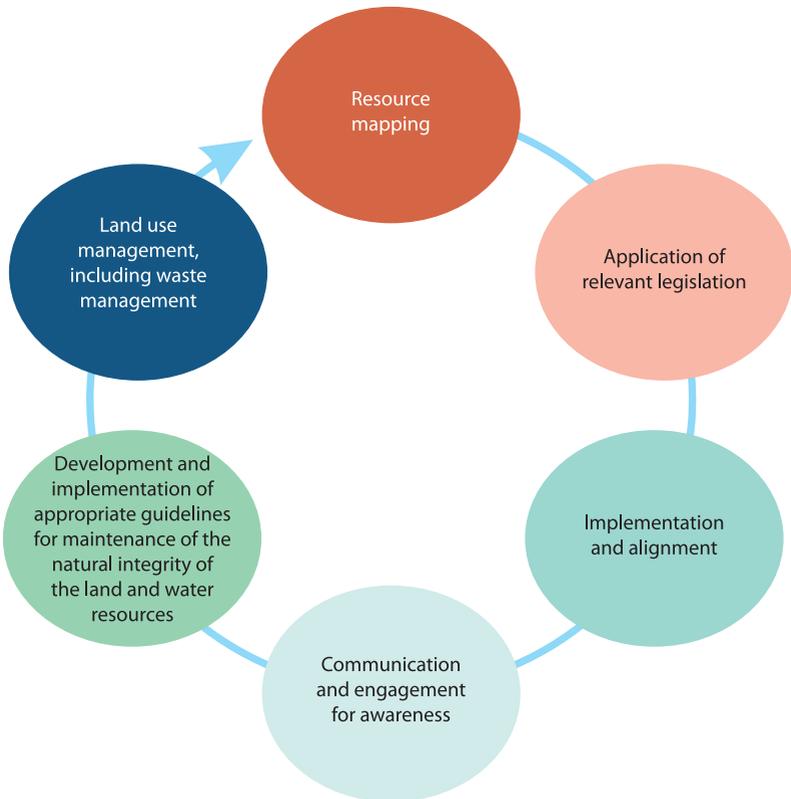
Deriving tools for long-term sustainable community engagement requires a combination of careful planning, collaboration, flexibility, and a commitment to listening to and serving the needs of the community. It's an ongoing process that evolves with the community itself, understanding that no community is homogenous and that their interests, aspirations and capacity varies between individuals, households and from village to village. Tools and packaging have to be properly consulted so that a systematic approach that takes into account the unique characteristics of the community and the specific goals of the engagement are not overlooked.

The specific tools and strategies tailored for the upper Umzimvubu River catchment have to



integrate elements recognising:

- The high altitude location as a strategic water source area with the highest peak at 3,019 metres above sea level (masl) in the Eastern Cape
- The summer grazing areas which in places intersects the strategic water source area. Some of these summer grazing areas have been converted to permanent all-year-round grazing due to the breakdown in landscape governance resulting in severe resource degradation
- The importance of tailoring information packages based on specific target groups, including decision-makers, land and resource users and those with expertise to guide on aspects relevant to start and continue conversations on the when, who, why and how to move into a resilient future



Exploring the process involved in tool development.



ROADMAP: HOW DID WE GET HERE?

The process leading to decisions on what should form part of the offerings is based on several steps identified through a number of iterations to ensure that the process adopted responds to the needs as identified by target communities and groups while still having some flexibility to accommodate changing circumstances. Although the intention was not to define a specific process to be followed, it is important to have a defined route even if there will be deviations from it. The guiding principles should remain based on the unique values and objectives.

STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

This is part of an assessment done based on observations, literature, casual interactions and experiences from other projects with similar components. A reconnaissance stage based on observations, literature and previous experiences is conducted to address community and landscape restoration, involving experienced cooperating agencies such as NGOs and researchers. This approach helps to avoid raising community expectations prematurely, and ERS has been working with the same communities for over 20 years, prioritising their livelihoods.

ISSUES IDENTIFICATION, PRIORITISATION, RANKING AND GOAL SETTING

Based on the analysis above, project leadership becomes more deliberate and real with designs for use in stakeholder engagement to ensure sustainability, well-being, equity and building trust.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

Several consultations with local rural stakeholders have indicated over the years that, when it comes to community development initiatives that integrate the different sectors of the rural population, it is best to ensure that traditional leadership is involved as the custodians of the land and the different cultural practices. However, all initiatives have to be registered and integrated into the IDP to make sure that there is support and a full understanding by the elected governance structures as represented by the Ward Committee members in the different villages. Therefore, **information sharing** with the municipalities through their different structures is very important, but **full engagement** is done with the traditional leadership at different levels.



Community leadership.



Support from traditional leadership is vital for the success of projects in traditional authoritative domains.



STAKEHOLDER INTERACTION AND SELECTION OF PILOT AREAS

Pilot areas can be a single village, a group of villages under one Headman or a subcatchment. It is of utmost importance to maintain visibility, flexibility and be accessible to the local stakeholder communities in spite of and because of the difficult physical terrain where the communities are based, most of the time with no means of communication except to travel and meet with project staff in person. Visibility is maintained through visits and attendance of community meetings. Accessibility means being able to communicate in the different local languages, and letting community members know who they can talk to about different issues. Being flexible without being derailed, and not over-promising is very important as it establishes credibility and good working relations, so that the pilot communities can spread a positive message.

Selection of a few pilot villages to test out ideas helps as the target area is several thousand hectares of mountainous terrain. At this stage structured interventions are desired to ensure that ideas coming out of the different interactions.

COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Networking and collaboration with partners from other catchments provide information on various tools and approaches in use in their landscapes. These are tuned and as necessary adapted for wider applicability in other catchments. Through several interaction with roleplayers and experts at different levels, it has been determined that catchment health is essential for building resilience of ecosystems and communities and address environmental challenges facing all resources. Through assessments, engagements and formulation of objectives to facilitate collaboration, a more robust system for resource protection can be being developed and with the improved planning across disciplines, systems for water resources management, addressing degradation and pollution and development of shared monitoring protocols can be established. How willing and able partners are to invest can determine the depth and volume of implementation across the landscapes.

ESTABLISH RELEVANCE ON WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO THE COMMUNITY

Utilising the results of the stakeholder interaction processes, it is crucial to establish what should be used as the anchor for developing livelihood strategies based on the resources, local knowledge and practices of the community. The approach adopted has to be tailored to the unique needs and circumstances articulated so that resources and participation are optimised.





CAPACITY BUILDING

Building the capacity of local communities to understand and manage their resources is crucial. The process accommodates different stakeholder interests and is determined based on discussions and workshops from the pilot phases. Key considerations include matrices developed with land users, and once the community is interested, engagement is structured to manage their land to develop livestock as a livelihood strategy.



KEY PRINCIPLES ON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS

Key focus	Best practices	Highlights	Notable lessons	Outcomes
Community engagements	<p>Building community trust</p> <p>Long-term relationships</p> <p>Sustainable communication strategy</p>	<p>Emphasis on one-on-one and group discussions</p> <p>Creation of voluntary association</p>	<p>Trust and engagement are crucial</p> <p>Ongoing capacity building is essential</p> <p>Messaging should be simple and clear</p>	Strong community ownership and alignment
Understanding the complexities of communal land	<p>Unified vision creation</p> <p>Importance of a guiding constitution</p> <p>Engagement with traditional authority bodies</p>	<p>Establishment of voluntary association with guiding constitution</p> <p>Collaborative process to promote integrated vision</p>	<p>Clearly define boundaries</p> <p>Understand the complexities of land ownership</p> <p>Engage the community fully</p>	Constitution enabling co-management agreements
Ensuring informed decision-making	<p>Using visuals for effective communication</p> <p>In-depth stakeholder engagement</p> <p>Coordination across regions</p>	<p>Collaborative process with stakeholders for an integrated vision</p> <p>Importance of mapping potential spring water sources</p>	<p>Importance of a collective vision</p> <p>Need for local, long-term facilitation</p> <p>Restoration projects create job opportunities</p>	Effective resource management and improved livelihoods
Responsiveness to community ideals	<p>Visual communication techniques</p> <p>Involvement of communities in project planning</p> <p>Implementation of community wish list</p>	<p>Use of footage to highlight efforts like alien invasive plant control and livestock management</p> <p>A wishlist matrix developed to cater to community needs</p>	<p>Communities have unique priorities</p> <p>Facilitation should be by trusted local agents</p> <p>Restoration can pave the way for entrepreneurial growth</p>	Empowered communities and sustainable natural resource management

CONSIDERATIONS IN THE SELECTION OF TOOLS FOR JOINT MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES

Selecting the right tools for joint resource planning and management is essential for effective collaboration, including successful resource planning for attainment of sustainable outcomes for the benefit of identified stakeholders. Tools for consideration should be those that support public awareness and education to foster stewardship and responsible resource use. It should be a thoughtful and informed process that takes into account the unique characteristics and requirements of the resource, the managers and all the stakeholders involved.

In the context of the Upper Umzimvubu River catchment tools should cater to the requirements of a youthful population, address the livelihoods of those dependent on natural resource management, and contribute to enhancing land ownership, chieftainship, and custodianship structures. Sensitivity is key. Local resource governance should empower communities to participate in decisions regarding resource utilisation and conservation. Catchment governance is a complex interplay of jurisdiction, collaboration and coordination across different government levels. Clearly defined boundaries of authority are crucial as they outline the extent and duties of distinct government spheres – national, provincial and local. Understanding the interactions, collaborations and engagements among these governmental spheres, local leaders and community members is fundamental for effective catchment governance.

Interest group	Role
Local traditional leadership	Overall management and allocation of resources, dispute resolutions, managing the socio-political context on behalf of the communities, and liaison with outside interest groups. Maintenance of public order and safety.
Local resource users	Volunteers, advocates, and active participants, local intel and needs.
Local government and authorities	Regulatory support, extension services, endorsements and permits. Engaging with elected officials at the local, regional, and national levels can also help secure political support.
Environmental and conservation Organisations	Expertise, resources, and networks.
Scientists, research and education institutions	Conceptualisation of new and/or improved research ideas and involvement of students. Collaboration with scientists and researchers can provide data, analysis, and scientific credibility to your restoration efforts.



Interest group	Role
Businesses and industry	Funding or resources, environmental stewardship.
Farmers and agriculture stakeholders	Monitoring impacts on production and input resources, water and impact monitoring in the catchment ,information sharing.
Recreational groups	Ensuring sustainable enjoyment of the area and visitor safety.
Non-governmental organisations	Can carry out mobilisation, offer support, expertise, capacity building, local institutional development, management of investments and advocacy for catchment restoration efforts.
Media	Engaging with local media outlets can help raise awareness and inform the community about restoration projects and their importance.
Land and property owners	Involvement of private landowners an provide a physical space to test innovations on land use and restoration and run tests before wider dissemination.
Herders	Managing day-to-day use of rangelands, reporting state of the resources.

COMMUNITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNICATION

When it comes to community arrangements for communication, information sharing and capacity building in the context of the Umzimvubu Catchment is based on leadership arrangements, interests and needs of the proposed intervention. Creating a toolbox or handbook for effective and appropriate institutionalisation of catchment natural resources management involves assembling a set of tools, strategies, and resources that can be applied to achieve sustainable resource management goals based on the above arrangements. The toolbox informing what goes into a handbook for different actors in specified niches should have the following components clearly articulated especially for outreach:

- **Storytelling** as a way of sharing success stories and testimonials from people who have been involved in building the governance for stewardship in the catchment, and communal landscape restoration, to inspire others.
- **Educational materials** such brochures, pamphlets, and informational materials that explain the importance of catchment restoration and provide actionable steps for individuals and communities.
- **Workshops and seminars** to inform and educate local residents and stakeholders about catchment restoration techniques and best practices.



- **Online resources**, including a website or online portal where people can access information, resources, and tools related to catchment restoration with guidance on how they can be involved.
- **Community engagement** especially local communities involves attendance of events and campaigns and arranging proper visibility and interaction through meetings, volunteer events, and engagement campaigns to build support for watershed stewardship and restoration efforts.
- **Social media** platforms use is important to reach a wider audience and share updates, success stories, and relevant content especially with youth and remote cooperating agencies.
- **Partnerships and common interest groups** collaborating and those with potential to raise and/pool resources such as international, national and local environmental organisations, government agencies, and businesses to pool resources and expertise.
- **Mapping and data tools** through use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and data visualisation tools to showcase the current state of the catchment and the progress made in restoration and negotiated outcomes eg conservation agreements, protected springs, seasonal rest impacts.
- **Monitoring, reporting and information updates** regularly to establish credibility for implementation support and sharing of outcomes and impact of restoration efforts.
- **Funding opportunities** for catchment restoration projects.

For a resource management arrangement to work, everyone has to perform based on assigned responsibilities.





THE ECOCHAMPS

Ecochamps are young people who were brought up on the landscape, each working around the landscapes and communities where they live. Specifically, their main tasks are related to:

- **Rangeland restoration and livestock support**, facilitating formation of grazing associations, giving communities the necessary support related to livestock health, branding and marketing;
- Ecochamps are the **major link** between the communities, implementing NGOs and the outside world, they attend tribal/community meetings and are clued up on what the major development issues of their communities are and the kind of support needed.
- They conduct **community surveys** and assist with data compilation and research.
- When data has been analysed, they lead **feedback sessions** to the community and provide support for publicity and dissemination of results, including use of social media.



CASE STUDIES

Lessons learned from case study 1 – Community engagement

The first case study educated communities on how to take ownership of their land for conservation, emphasising protection and long-term benefits. It aimed to build capacity and effective community engagement by valuing community input during development. The themes below provide a clear structure for communities to understand and learn about landscape governance processes.





Building trust and engagement

- Emphasise building community trust by understanding their needs and engaging in meaningful discussions.
- Advocate for group and one-on-one discussions to ensure that the pace of engagement aligns with the community's comfort level and ensures inclusivity.
- Establish a local office for trust and accessibility.
- Maintain long-term relationships and commitment with partners and stakeholders.
- Foster trust between traditional authorities and stakeholders.
- Develop a sustainable communication strategy/network beyond the project duration.

Multidimensional engagement

- Highlight the multidimensional nature of community engagement, considering various aspects such as institutional arrangements, historical context, and political configuration.
- Encourage a holistic approach to community engagement that addresses complex institutional arrangements and power dynamics.
- Establish personal connections and gather feedback from community members.
- Conduct stakeholder forum meetings to engage a broader range of stakeholders.
- Outreach to villagers through regular community forums for informed and involved participation.
- Conduct interviews with traditional authorities to incorporate their perspectives.
- Emphasise the importance of involving the community in developing the vision and name of the protected area.
- Strengthen community ownership and alignment by ensuring the initiative reflects their needs, priorities, and cultural values.

Navigating complex institutional arrangements

- Guide navigating complex institutional arrangements that result from historical forces such as colonialism, apartheid, and post-apartheid reforms.
- Help communities understand the rules and regulations that govern land use, resource management, and community engagement in their region.
- Recognise and include all affected tribal authorities, including headmen and women, to ensure the initiative is inclusive and aligned with the needs and priorities of all stakeholders.
- Engage and collaborate with tribal authorities to promote a sense of ownership and active participation.



Co-management of natural resources – Collaboration and resource management

- Highlight the need for co-management of natural resources, moving from top-down planning to collaborative decision-making processes.
- Encourage communities to actively manage their resources and partner with voluntary associations like MTTM.
- Align incentives with identified needs and a shared vision.
- Foster collaboration among different actors involved in landscape governance.
- Share resources, knowledge, and expertise for comprehensive responses.
- Simplify decision-making processes for integrated resource management.

Addressing power dynamics and building relationships

- Address power dynamics within communities, including the influence of traditional authorities, local elites, and municipal councillors.
- Provide guidance on navigating power relations and building relationships with key stakeholders, including traditional authorities and state institutions.

Managing competing interests

- Acknowledge the existence of competing interests between traditional authorities and neighbouring communities.
- Provide strategies for effectively managing and mediating conflicts that arise from competing interests, ensuring the interests of the broader community are considered.

Effective communication and information sharing

- Use effective communication channels like SMS, WhatsApp groups, and appropriate tools.
- Adapt to preferred languages of communication for inclusivity and comfortable participation.
- Facilitate in-field learning exchanges for knowledge sharing and on-the-ground impacts.
- Keep messaging simple and engage with community leaders.



LESSONS LEARNED FROM CASE STUDY 2 – UNDERSTANDING THE COMPLEXITIES OF COMMUNAL LAND

The second case study sought to provide an understanding of the complexities surrounding communal land and how these complexities can inform the development of a single management authority for a protected area for multiple communities. The guidelines in this section emphasise the importance of voluntary organisations, constitutions, co-management agreements, alignment with objectives and values, trust-building, and effective implementation of management plans.

Establishing a voluntary organisation

- Advocate for establishing a voluntary organisation to serve as the management authority for the protected area.
- Ensure representation from each community involved, providing a comprehensive structure encompassing all traditional authorities in the target area.

Developing a constitution

- Emphasise the importance of developing a constitution to govern the operations of the voluntary organisation.
- Outline the constitution's powers, responsibilities, decision-making processes, and membership criteria to clarify and establish a legal framework.

Facilitating co-management agreements

- Highlight the role of the constitution in enabling the voluntary organisation to enter into co-management agreements with service providers.
- Define the criteria for selecting service providers, outline the responsibilities of each party, and establish processes for monitoring and reporting progress.



Ensuring alignment with objectives and values

- Emphasise the need for the constitution to ensure that co-management agreements are aligned with the broader objectives and goals of the voluntary organisation.
- Provide a framework for resolving disputes and conflicts, ensuring legal enforceability and compliance with national and local laws and regulations.

Guiding implementation of management plans

- Outline how the constitution supports the implementation of the Protected Area Management Plan (PAMP) by providing a framework for engaging with service providers and stakeholders.
- Define responsibilities, objectives, and goals related to specific issues, such as managing and clearing invasive alien plants, and establish processes for monitoring and reporting progress

Clarifying land ownership and boundaries

- Clearly define boundary issues: Highlight the importance of defining boundaries to avoid conflicts and establish a clear understanding of land ownership and use rights.
- Navigate Complexities of Landownership: Address the complexities of landownership in communal lands, providing strategies and steps for working with communities and local authorities to secure land and resource rights effectively.
- Enable communities to decide on the protected area's boundaries, empowering them to take control and ownership of the project and their land.
- Foster a participatory approach to decision-making that considers biodiversity objectives and community aspirations.



Effective community engagement and representation

- **Prioritise community engagement:** Emphasise the importance of involving communities throughout initiatives, including participatory approaches, inclusive decision-making, and incorporation of local needs and priorities.
- **Establish community representative structures:** Highlight the value of establishing representative structures that ensure community voices are heard, guiding their creation, roles, and mechanisms for effective communication and feedback.
- **Emphasise the importance of involving the community in developing the vision and name of the protected area.**
- **Strengthen community ownership and alignment** by ensuring the initiative reflects their needs, priorities, and cultural values.

Collaboration, resource sharing, and learning exchanges

- **Promote resource sharing:** Highlight the benefits of sharing resources within organisations and among stakeholders to maximise impact and resource utilisation.
- **Facilitate learning exchanges:** Showcase the value of learning exchanges and knowledge sharing among communities, offering guidance on organising exchanges, facilitating collaboration, and fostering collective learning.
- **Facilitate learning exchanges with existing stewardship communities and other areas facing similar challenges** to share knowledge, best practices, and lessons learned.
- **Ensure the initiative benefits from the experiences and expertise of others.**

LESSONS LEARNED FROM CASE STUDY 3 – ENSURING INFORMED DECISION-MAKING

The third case study aimed to ensure that communities could make informed decisions regarding developing a management plan for multiple communities. This involved providing the necessary information and resources to the community to make informed decisions and to ensure that the community is fully aware of each option's potential benefits and drawbacks.



Coordination and integration of efforts

- Emphasise the need to coordinate and integrate the efforts of multiple organisations and communities involved in the management plan.
- Highlight the importance of aligning goals, priorities, and management interventions across the catchment to ensure a unified and practical approach.

Collaborative process and stakeholder engagement

- Promote a collaborative process that brings stakeholders together to share perspectives and experiences and work towards a common vision.
- Encourage meaningful stakeholder engagement through workshops, interviews, and visual representations to capture their understanding, needs, and obligations.

Mapping and visual representation

- Utilise visuals, such as drone and ground footage, to map the extent of the area and highlight the different traditional authorities and ecosystems within it.
- Showcase biodiversity features and illustrate the challenges, such as erosion and improper use of fire, to raise awareness and foster a deeper understanding of conservation needs.

Assessing community needs and obligations

- Conduct interviews and consultations with herders, stock owners, land users, and traditional healers to understand their needs, obligations, and the consequences of actions or inaction in maintaining the resources.
- Incorporate the perspectives and aspirations of community members to inform decision-making and ensure sustainable resource management.
- Facilitate workshops to develop a comprehensive and desired PAMP considering appropriate land uses.
- Encourage stakeholders to collaborate and contribute to a shared vision for the area's management.
- Strengthen community ownership and alignment with their needs, priorities, and cultural values.



Determining appropriate land uses

- Foster discussions and stakeholder collaboration to determine appropriate land uses that align with local needs, priorities, and ecological considerations.
- Ensure land use decisions are based on a holistic understanding of the landscape and its resources.

Ongoing capacity building sessions

- Conduct ongoing capacity-building sessions with all traditional authority representatives to ensure they have the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to participate effectively in the initiative.
- Provide training, workshops, and resources tailored to the specific needs of traditional leaders to enhance their understanding and involvement.

Effective communication with traditional leaders

- Establish good communication channels to ensure that traditional leaders are fully engaged and involved in all initiatives.
- Regularly update and engage with traditional leaders to keep them informed, seek their input, and align their vision with the initiative.
- Recognise the autonomy of individual traditional authorities while fostering a sense of collective identity and shared challenges.
- Ensure that all stakeholders are aligned and working towards a common goal while respecting each traditional authority's unique perspectives and roles.

LESSONS FROM CASE STUDY 4 – RESPONSIVENESS TO COMMUNITY IDEALS

This case study aimed to build an understanding of the different ideals and benefits of developing a single management authority for a protected area for multiple communities.



Empowerment and capacity building

- Highlight the importance of empowering communities to take control of their natural resources and manage them sustainably.
- Advocate for capacity building and training sessions to provide community members with the necessary skills and knowledge for effective resource management.
- Conduct ongoing capacity-building sessions with traditional authority representatives.
- Establish effective communication channels with traditional leaders to keep them engaged and informed.

Mapping and managing water sources

- Emphasise the significance of mapping potential spring water sources for sustainable natural resource management.
- Promote the importance of water source management and its connection to the environment's overall health and community livelihoods.

Sustainable livestock management

- Advocate for supporting communities in adopting sustainable livestock management practices that balance community needs and environmental considerations.
- Advocate for livestock management techniques that promote responsible grazing, herd health, and sustainable land use.

Visual communication and outreach

- Utilise visuals, such as maps, videos, and still footage, to effectively communicate the objectives and activities of voluntary associations or governance initiatives.
- Highlight the achievements and efforts in alien plant control, livestock management, and water source mapping to inspire and engage communities.



Community engagement and participation

- Stress the importance of community involvement in decision-making processes related to natural resource management.
- Encourage active participation and collaboration between communities, voluntary associations, and relevant stakeholders to ensure a sense of ownership and shared responsibility.

Supportive services and advice

- Advocate for providing communities with natural resource management planning, livestock and range management advice, and other relevant support services.
- Highlight the importance of tailored guidance and advice based on local needs and priorities.

Develop a wishlist matrix to highlight community needs

- Create a wishlist matrix to identify and prioritise the needs of different land rights holders within the protected area buffer.
- Use the wishlist matrix as a guiding framework for local implementing NGOs in strategic planning, fundraising, and decision-making related to spring protection, wattle clearing, and livestock support.

Facilitate community-led participation and empowerment

- Ensure that the active implementation process involves facilitated, community-led participation and empowerment.
- Engage communities in decision-making processes, such as identifying springs for protection and providing appropriate livestock husbandry support.
- Conduct facilitation activities through long-term, credible, locally-based agents rather than short-term or external consultants with limited connection to the area and communities.
- Build relationships with local facilitators who deeply understand the context, culture, and needs of the communities.



Link livelihood impacts to ecological security

- Implement restoration projects that create job opportunities and allow communities to benefit from the landscape directly.
- Highlight the connection between ecological security, such as habitat restoration, and visible livelihood impacts, such as income generation and improved well-being.
- Equip underprivileged communities with the necessary resources and support to develop small, medium-sized enterprises (SMMEs) aligned with sustainable practices.
- Offer training, access to capital and markets, mentoring, and other support mechanisms to help communities become self-sustainable and economically empowered.

Maintain relationships and capacitate communities

- Continuously maintain established relationships with communities and stakeholders involved in the governance process.
- To prevent loss of momentum and faith in the vision, provide ongoing capacity-building initiatives to empower communities and keep them engaged, even during challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

INFORMATION SHARING

In resource management, information sharing is crucial for informed decision-making and stewardship. Communal landscapes require accessible platforms and packaged information, such as geo-referenced presentations and GIS maps, for ease of use. Interactions between local communities, agencies and experts streamline decision-making, resource management and stakeholder engagement for catchment restoration outreach.

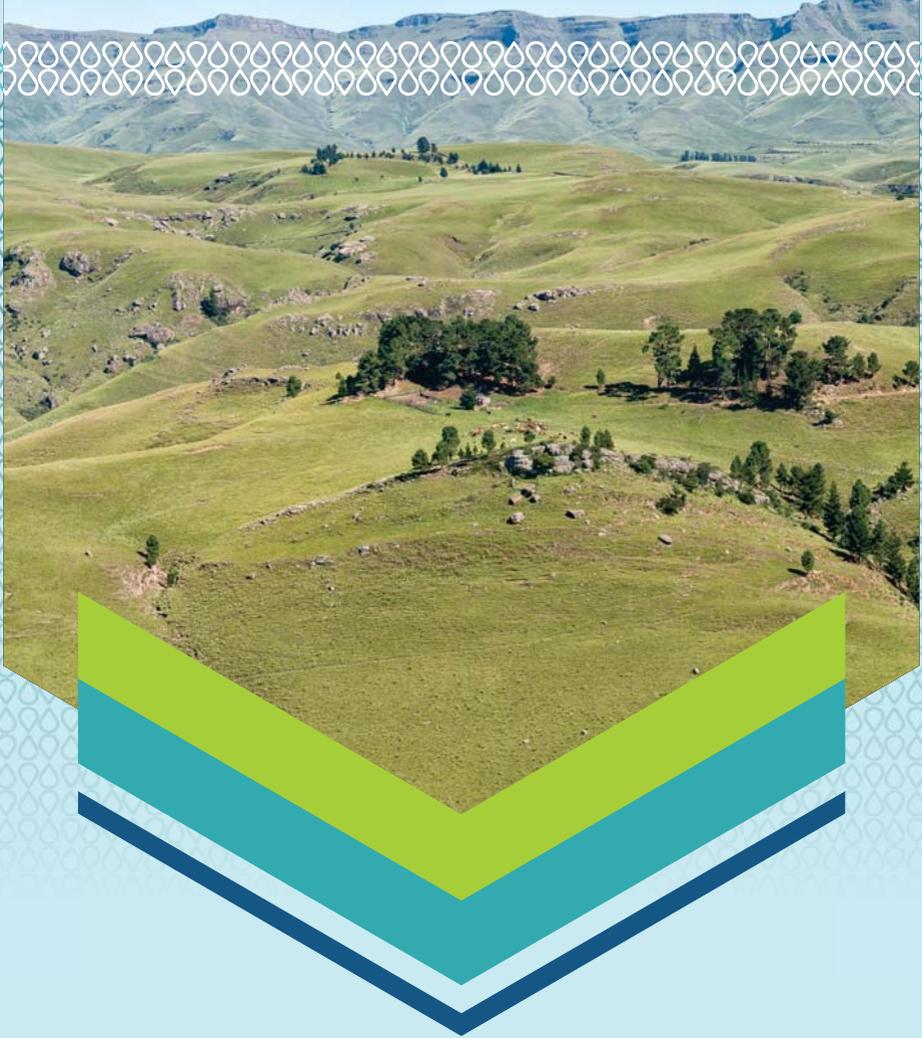
To promote responsible resource management, a culture of transparency, inclusivity, and information sharing empowers communities and decision-makers to make informed choices.



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