

ARA CLIMATE CHANGE WORKSHOP

Hlankomo Community, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa (1-4 March 2022)



Presented by Ruan de Wet and James Kinghorn



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Objectives:

- Understanding **community perception** of climate change vulnerabilities and priorities
- **Co-creation** process (not imposing our perspectives)
- Ensure we understand the **nuances of the challenges** before designing any activities to address them



Burning Issue:

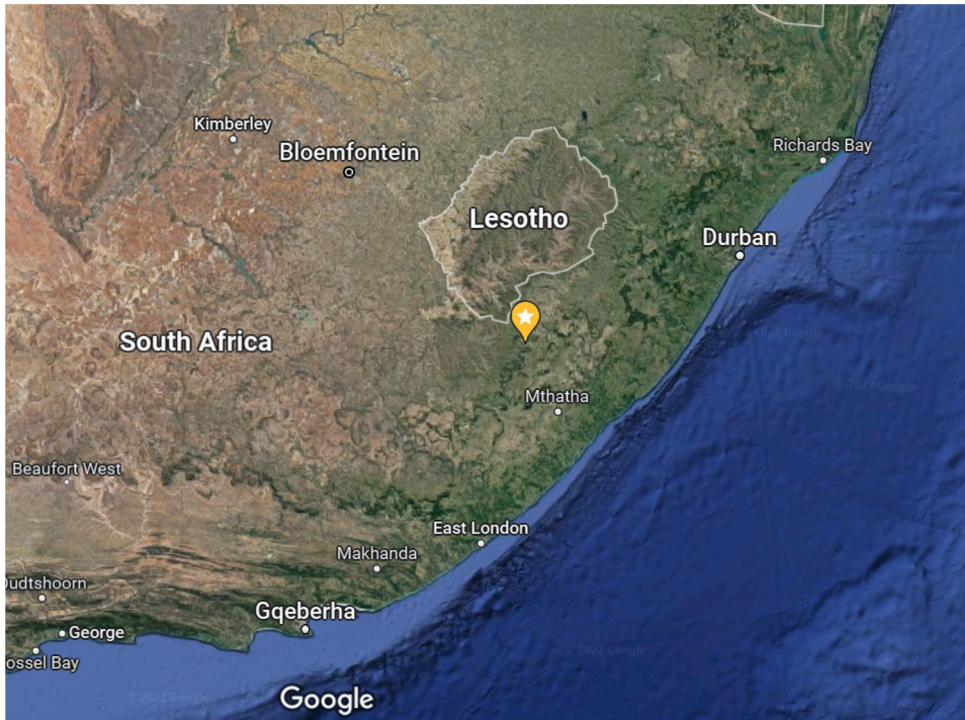
“The reinforcing, systemic socioecological vulnerabilities of pastoralist communities in the former homelands of South Africa”

Photo credit: Rosanna McLean



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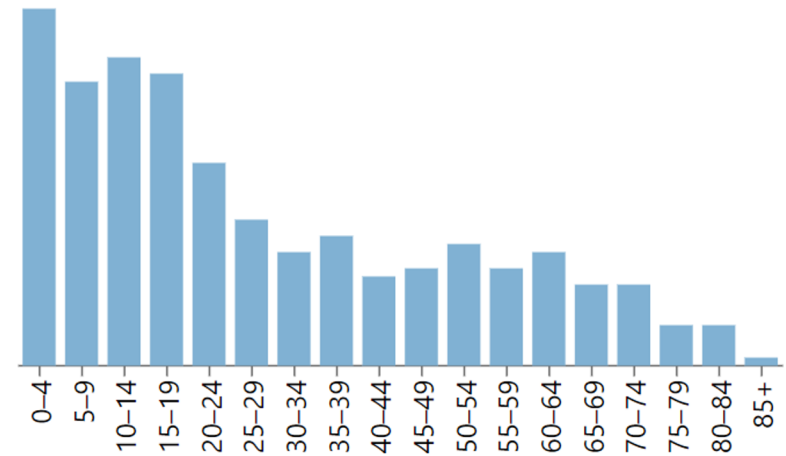
Hlankomo Community



Population 326 people, 94 hh's

Languages: isiXhosa, Sesotho

Age structure:



Sources: Google Maps; Firth, 2021



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Workshop overview



Overview:

- **Two** days of workshops (40-50 participants)
- **One** day of focus group discussions and consolidation (10-15 participants)
- **Three** MNP members
- **Five** Lima facilitators
- **Three** Verra/CCB specialists

Photo credit: Rosanna McLean



CO-CREATION PROCESS (SIMPLIFIED)



**UKUKUGUQUQUKA
KWEMOZULU**
eMzantsi
Afrika
Xhosa
8:53

1. Contextualizing climate change concepts



2. Reflections on local climate impacts



3. Plenary feedback



6. Reflecting back



5. Debating the details



4. Narrowing down priority impacts

Photo credit: Rosanna McLean



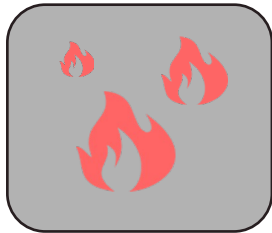
CO-CREATION PROCESS (SIMPLIFIED) CONT.



Photo credit: Rosanna McLean



OUTCOMES (1/3)



Wildfires

Damage to buildings and infrastructure

Loss of livestock, grasslands and crops

Health impacts (death and disease)

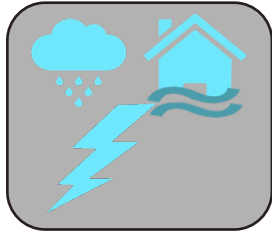
Access to education and healthcare

Human-wildlife conflict

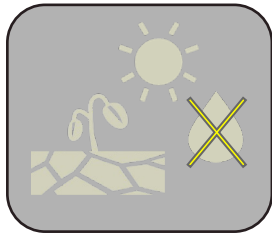
Food/water security + conflict over resources

Safety and security

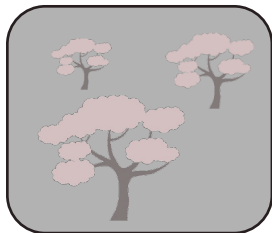
- No enforcement
- Lack of “unity”
- No initiative or capacity
- Lack of gov support
- Adaptive strategies aren’t accessible to everyone
- Greater reliance on social grants
- Feedbacks between impacts
- Increases in crime and domestic violence (esp. GBV)
- Women (esp. youth) adapting with transactional sex -> exposure to STDs and teenage pregnancy



Storms
Heavy rain
Floods



Drought



Wattle



OUTCOMES (2/3)

- “I couldn’t sleep last night because I kept thinking about climate change, why we aren’t getting any information about it, how it’s impacting us, and what we need to do about it!”
- “We all know about droughts, floods, storms, fires, wattle invasions and how these impact us, but we’ve never had a chance to sit down and talk properly about how we can work together to adapt.”
- “We don’t need to wait for outsiders to fix our problems for us. We are the ones who understand our problems and can do something about them.”



Photo credit: Rosanna McLean



OUTCOMES (3/3)

Three underlying (and interlinked) themes emerged

- Youth – This group is currently marginalised and disengaged, but was highlighted as being key to building a resilient future through climate action.
- Gender – As a pastoralist community, Hlankomo is grappling with the tension between the marginalisation of women under traditional political and economic structures and the need to centre women as agents of positive change.
- Institutions – Hlankomo’s dual system of governance is hindering the enforcement of rules and norms required to foster sustainable land management. Institutions can potentially be empowered by building their legitimacy through greater participation of women and youth.



SOME KEY TAKE AWAYS



- The co-creation process encouraged much greater participation and ownership
- There was very little that we had to explain... these communities are intimately familiar with climate change impacts!
- A similar participatory process will be very effective in the other engagements that we're having with this and similar communities.
- We will be applying the same approach to our research into wellbeing and other dimensions of climate change priorities.

Photo credit: Rosanna McLean



Thank You

References

Frith, A. 2022. Lower Tsitsana Sub Place 286140001 from Census 2011 (Online). Available: <https://census2011.adrianfrith.com/place/286140001> [Accessed 31/03/2022]

Google Maps, 2022. Lower Tsitsana Community Hall (Online). Available:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Lower+Tsitsana+Community+Hall/@-30.8779647,28.3440413,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x1e8abf418e19a5db:0x23c9c91c9beac63f!8m2!3d-30.8779461!4d28.3462175> [Accessed 31/03/2022]

Statistics South Africa, 2012. Census 2011. StatsSA, Pretoria.

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