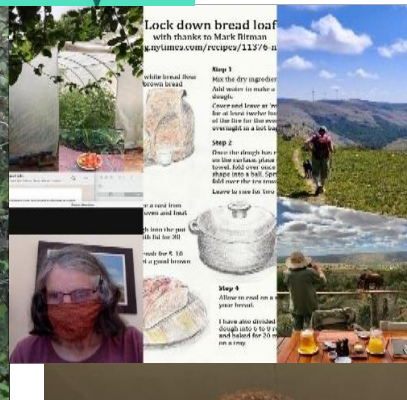


Jan 2021

2020 An In-sanitizing Year



Tsitsa Project 2020 in a snapshot

2020 has been a difficult year! The Tsitsa Project family ended the year on a positive note and with a BANG through an online Reflect and Reconnect event, where they shared lessons learnt, experiences and pictures using <https://padlet.com/>. Here are some of the reflections from the team:

It's been a tough year, our world has been turned upside down... one thing that I have learnt there [are] many ways to keep things moving... (Siphakamise Ngobhane, LIMA)

...I've learnt that in pandemic conditions one must pay even more attention to nurturing relationships and that it is also harder to do so but that it is these relationships of shared understanding and care that have got us through this rough year. (Dr Jessica Cockburn, TP Rhodes University).

I live in lower Sinxako...What I have learned this year is that we care and love each other as family in the TP...Some of us also get an opportunity to learn things that we did not have an opportunity to learn previously (Sibongile, TP Lower Sinxako).

This was the worst year...but I had a strong support system (Anele, TP Rhodes).

This year was very challenging since March. [There was no] Good Friday. This Corona thing changed lives of many people (Ntombikayise, TP).

The event was concluded with the team filling up their glasses to toast to a successful year despite challenges, and an award ceremony which was chaired by Chris Jackson from LIMA.



Key Activities to date

The Tsitsa Project is committed to the work that it does by implementing processes that ensures collaboration with and capacity development of the Tsitsa community.

Monitor Capacity Development Short Course

The course was initiated in 2019. Module 3, entitled: Listening and Speaking training: Participating and Influencing Polycentric Governance Processes, was adapted for online learning **due to Covid-19 restrictions**. **The training was conducted with a blend of online and socially-distanced face to face sessions.** A small group of facilitators from the RU TP team (Ntombekhaya, Nosi and Anele) travelled to Maclear and together with LIMA (Chris, Sipa and Chumani) coordinated and facilitated the face to face session with 15 Monitors at the LIMA office. Matthew, Notiswa, Ant, Tally and Mateboho participated and presented content via zoom (presentations were projected to the Monitor group in Maclear). The training was predominantly conducted in isiXhosa, with translations either way. This is important for the Tsitsa Project because it enables meaningful participation and engagement.



Tsitsa Research-Policy Colloquium

On the 15th Oct 2020 Tsitsa Project held a Research Policy Colloquium. **This event is a platform for Tsitsa Project affiliated students and researcher to showcase and share their work with the wider Project and its stakeholders.** The work that was presented covered themes 1-3, and the colloquium was concluded with key policy messages.

- SESSION 1: Research, policy, and participatory governance
- SESSION 2: Observation systems and decision-making for complex systems
- SESSION 3: Sustainable land management and rehabilitation
- SESSION 4: Key policy messages from the Tsitsa Project.



The presentation of this colloquium can be found at

<https://drive.google.com/u/1/uc?id=1ZnqMUJ9p48Frqp7m-sX7uBAA9qX8KBlK&export=download>

Publications

Itzkin, A.; Scholes, M.C.; Clifford-Holmes, J.K.; Rowntree, K.; van derWaal, B.; Coetzer, K. A Social-Ecological Systems Understanding of Drivers of Degradation in the Tsitsa River Catchment to Inform Sustainable Land Management. *Sustainability* 2021, 13, 516. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13020516>

Gwapedza, D., Nyamela, N., Hughes, D.A., Slaughter, A.R., Mantel, S.K., van der Waal, B., 2020. Prediction of sediment yield of the Inxu River catchment (South Africa) using the MUSLE. *International Soil and Water Conservation Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.iswcr.2020.10.003>

Rosenberg, E. and Kotschy, K. (2020). Monitoring and evaluation in a changing world: A southern African perspective on the skills needed for a new approach. *African Evaluation Journal* 8(1), a472. <https://doi.org/10.4102/aej.v8i1.472>



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**TSITSA
PROJECT**

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