

Overview

From the 13th to the 18th October 2019 a team from the Tsitsa Project hosted a Roadshow in the Tsitsa river catchment. The purpose of the event was to advertise the Tsitsa Project, to let people know who we are and what is it that we do in the catchment. It was aimed at everyone who lives and works in the catchment. The members of the team who organized the Roadshow were from Rhodes University, University of Fort Hare and LIMA Rural Development Foundation. The team included Bukho Gusha, Nosi Mtati, Thenjiwe Mngadi, Antony Fry, Ayabulela Madikane, Chris Jackson and Siphakamise Ngobhane. The Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) assisted with organizing the events in each of the villages.

Roadshow Programme

The team hosted 1-day Roadshow events in the following locations: Upper and Lower Sinxaku, Village No5, Magwaca, and Mission. The programme included an introductory session where participants were introduced to the Tsitsa Project and the days' objectives and to monitoring tools relevant to the project.

After the group session at the beginning of the day the event moved outside and participants were divided into groups to join discussions and demonstrations on the following topics, presented by various members of the team (groups and topics varied by location):

1. Soil infiltration rate (Ayabulela and Spha).
2. Grass types and measurement of grass standing biomass (Chris and Thenjiwe).
3. Wattle (In upper catchment).
4. Vetiver grass and nurseries.
5. Dryland rehabilitation (Gamtoos Irrigation Board).
6. Google Earth Maps: where is the catchment and why we are connected? (Ant and Bukho)
7. Citizen technicians – sediment sampling.

After the group activities there was time for questions and reflections from the group. We then **had lunch together provided by local caterers**, and invited the local traditional leaders to give a word of closing to the event.



"The road show was a success. We got a lot of feedback from the communities and the CLOs did a good job helping to organise the event, especially as this was their first time. They also got a chance to learn about TP. We were a group of young people who worked very well together and learnt from each other...we were just taking each day as it comes."
(Nosiseko Mtati, Tsitsa Project Catchment Coordinator)



Tritsa Project

Roadshow October 2019



learning together about how our landscape works - what it means to us – what our challenges are – how we can work together in the Tritsa Project

Roadshow Participants

The Roadshow was attended by a wide range of stakeholders from the catchment including Community Liaison Officers, Citizen Monitors, Citizen Technicians, Joe Gqabi District Municipality, Gamtoos Irrigation Board, Community Development Workers, and Community members of Upper and lower Sinxaku (approx. 70 people), Village No5 (approx. 62 people, majority males), Magwaca (approx. 90 people, youth well represented), Mission (approx. 30 people) and their surrounding villages. In Lower Tsitsana we were even graced with the presence of the Senior Traditional Leader who seemed to be very interested in knowing about the work we do and sharing the history of the area with the team.

Feedback and insights from catchment residents

The following issues were raised by catchment residents during the Roadshow which the Tsitsa Project needs to take forward and respond to:

- **Problems with dumping of disposable nappies in rivers and dongas:** this is often done by outsiders and is difficult to control.
- **The government is giving money for everything these days:** this seems to have created a situation where nobody will do anything unless the government is willing to pay them for that service.
- **Risks to cattle:** cattle are getting stuck in dongas and dying, and are getting washed away in big rain events.
- **Career paths for youths in the environmental sector:** It would be great to incorporate a career expo for youth and school children in future Roadshow events. The Tsitsa Project also needs to link up with local schools and church youth groups.
- **Rain water harvesting:** people are interested in training.
- **Printed maps:** people who have participated in mapping activities would like a large printed map of their area to put up in their traditional council buildings.
- **Some people showed an interest in the possibility of making charcoal from wattle:** we could try to arrange learning exchanges, and people were encouraged to discuss this further with their CLOs.

Reflections on successes and challenges

The team thoroughly enjoyed the Roadshow event. It was a young team that worked together well. They made the following comments on their experiences:

- The team was well received in all the communities and people were very interested in knowing about the project.

- The team worked well together – it seems to have helped to have mostly a young team there with no-one 'being the boss'.
- There were some challenges with local leaders (political and traditional) abusing the opportunity of the Roadshow event for their own purposes to canvas support or discuss unrelated issues with the audience.
- Working with bigger groups was more difficult. The team also had some ideas for how to make things more interactive for future events.
- The team would like to put in more effort to get municipal participation, though this is very difficult. Having the CDWs there did make a difference.



Participants learning about using Google Earth for participatory mapping.



A local citizen technician sharing her knowledge about how to collect sediment samples for river monitoring.

Reflections from the Community Liaison Officers (CLOs)

A reflection and feedback session on field work experiences was held with the CLOs at the Tsitsa Project Science-Management meeting held in King William's Town on 27th and 28th November. During this session, CLOs shared the following reflections with the wider Tsitsa Project network.

"We are co-engines of the train. We have managed to organize people to come and attend workshops. People are very concerned about natural resource management.

We are able to raise awareness in the village so that people can manage their resources for the next generation.

(Thandokazi Nkotha, Community Liaison Officer at Upper Sinxaku)

"It is very difficult to convince people to come into meetings and workshops, because projects come and go. I want to know if you have any plan of making sure that the project remain sustainable after the funding is finished."

(Bulelwa Mpondo-Mguyana, Community Liaison Officer at Magwaca)

"We have already done some work for the Tsitsa Project with the Roadshow and some workshops.

It was not easy to get community members to come and attend because of power clashes between the chiefs and ward councillors.

I am grateful to hear from Nosi saying that the work we did so far was successful."

(Ntombikayise Konto, Community Liaison Officer at Mission)



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