



Ensuring Sustainable Use of Natural Resources for Rural Economic Development

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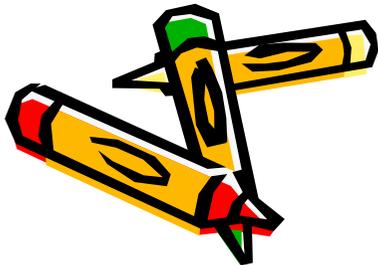
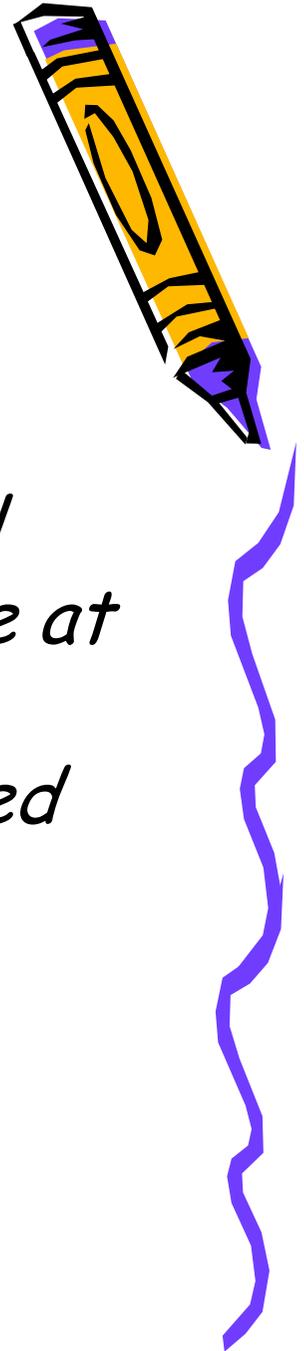
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Lwelaphanda Business Intelligent

Social science that makes a difference



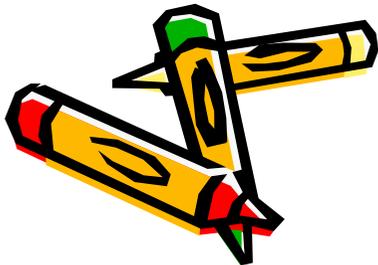
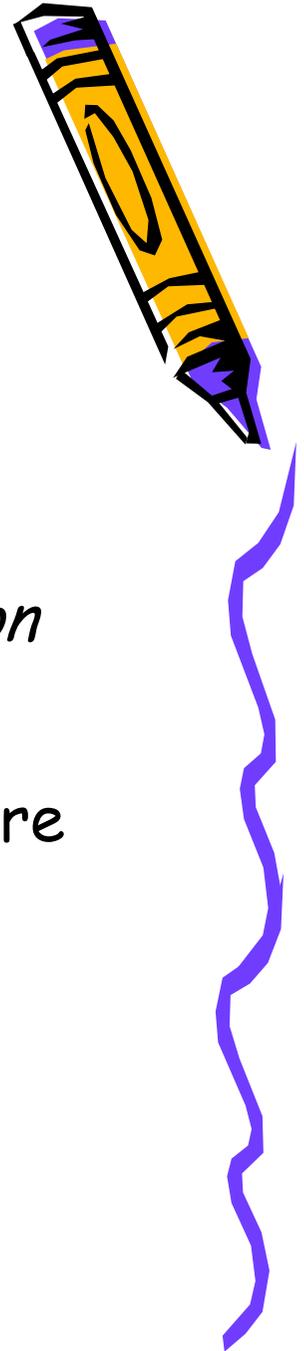
Socio-economic and natural resource context

- *"How and where people live, what they depend on for their day-to-day survival and the livelihood constraints they face at different times all define the local context within which nature is conserved or degraded"* , Lucy Emerton, IUCN.



Historical background to sustainable development

- 1972 Stockholm UN Conference on Human Environment,
- 1987 UN Commission on Development & Environment - Brundtland report - *Our common future*
- 1992 (Rio de Janeiro) UN Conference on Environment & Development - *Agenda 21*: nature conservation & SD critical for livelihoods
- 2002 Jo'burg Summit
- 2 views: conservation leads to development & development leads to conservation



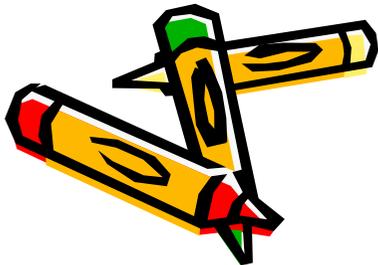
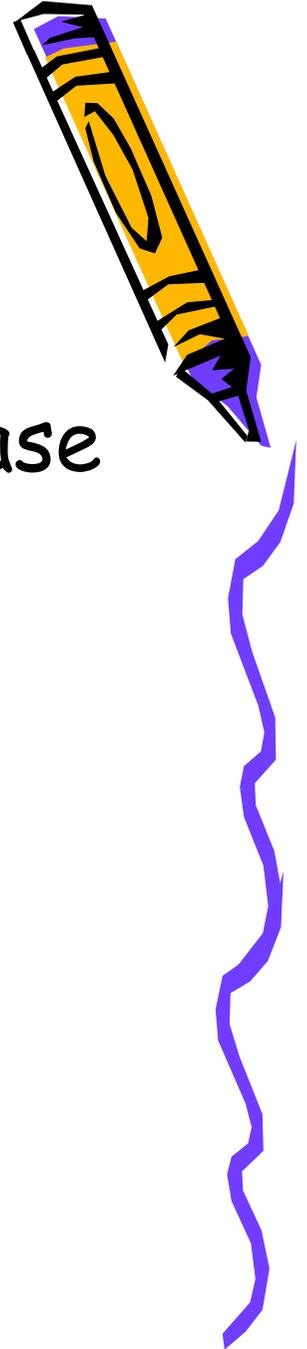
Sustainability defined

- With regards to environment: "*...development that seeks to meet needs & aspiration of the present without compromising ability of next generation to meet theirs*"
- With regards to livelihoods: "*A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base*"
- Sustainability is thus a function of how assets and capabilities are utilised, maintained and enhanced so as to preserve livelihoods



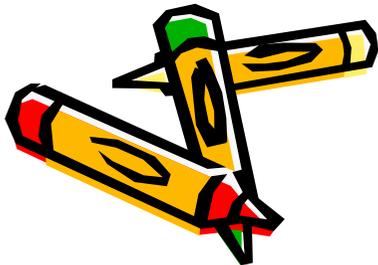
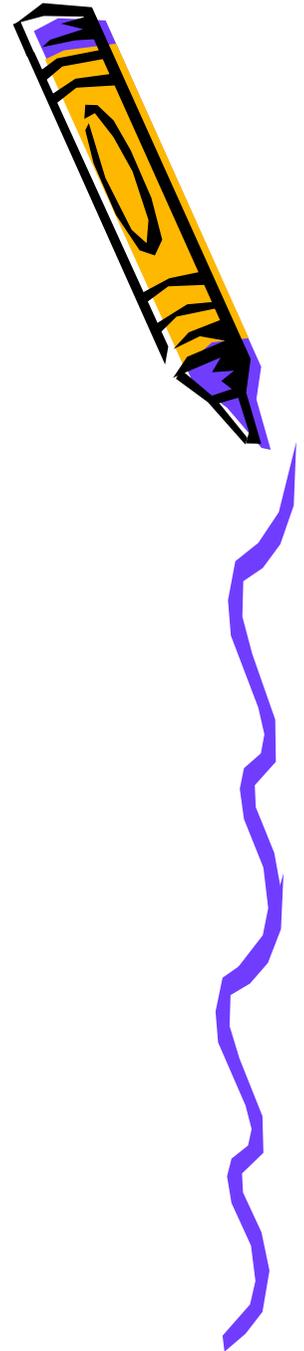
What do people need?

- More sustainable use of the NR base
- Better incomes
- Improved well-being
- Reduced vulnerability
- Improved food security
- Secured employment



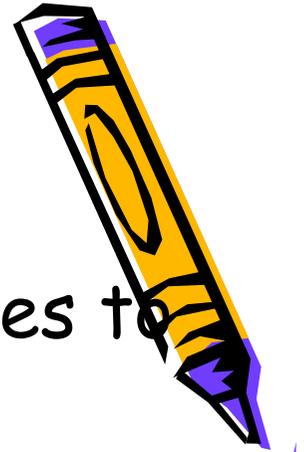
Uses of natural resources at household levels

- Cash incomes
- Employment
- Food
- Medicines



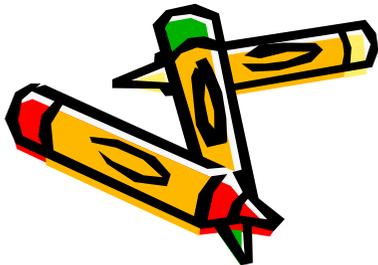
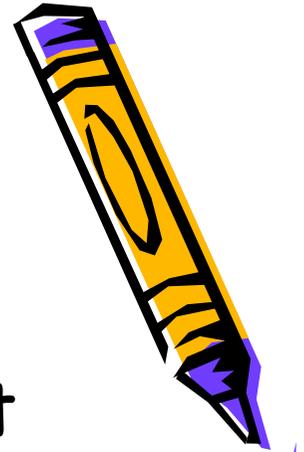
Why unsustainable natural resource uses?

- Policy failures - encouraging elite land uses to the neglect of local livelihoods
- Market failures - low prices for products necessitating unsustainable production practices
- Institutional failures - protected areas excluding locals who are key users of resources
- Livelihood circumstances - over-dependence on natural resources for livelihoods as a result of widespread poverty



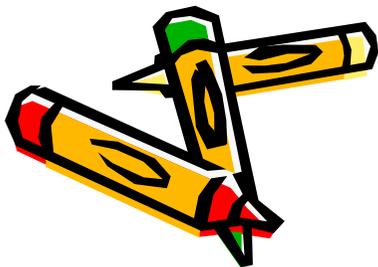
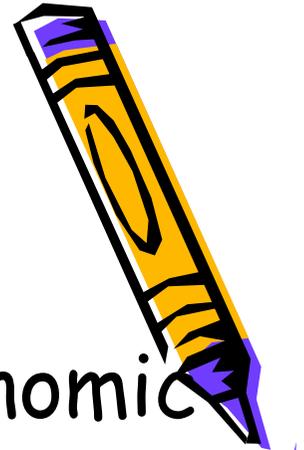
Assumptions: sustainable natural resource use assumes

- Move from exclusion to meaningful participation in conservation management
- Understanding that nature conservation for its own sake is unrealistic
- Nature conservation has a role to play in rural economic development and poverty alleviation
- Sustainable natural resource use cannot be understood outside the concept of sustainable livelihoods



Role of the State

- Municipalities ensure provision of basic services, promote socio-economic development and, democratic development of communities
- Capture and institutionalise community participation particularly rural women
- Capacitate Municipalities to implement national policies for rural development.



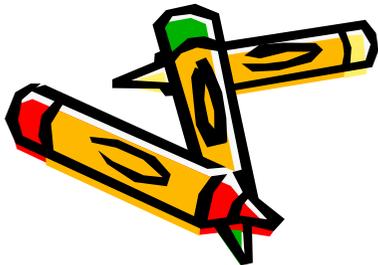
Ensuring sustainable use of resources

- Democratic access to resources - recognise rights, not *priviledges*
- Thinking of the last first - eg how removal of alien species will affect the poor, aged, women, children, the disabled - pro-poor policies
- See the poor as rational beings forced by circumstances to destroy environment
- Accept the fact that natural resources serve as economic assets for the poor
- Democraticising governance institutions to ensure equity - local participation in decision-making



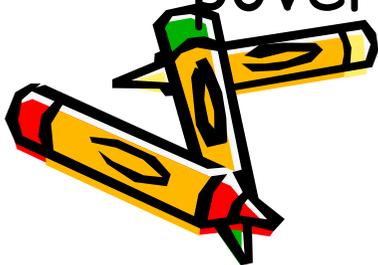
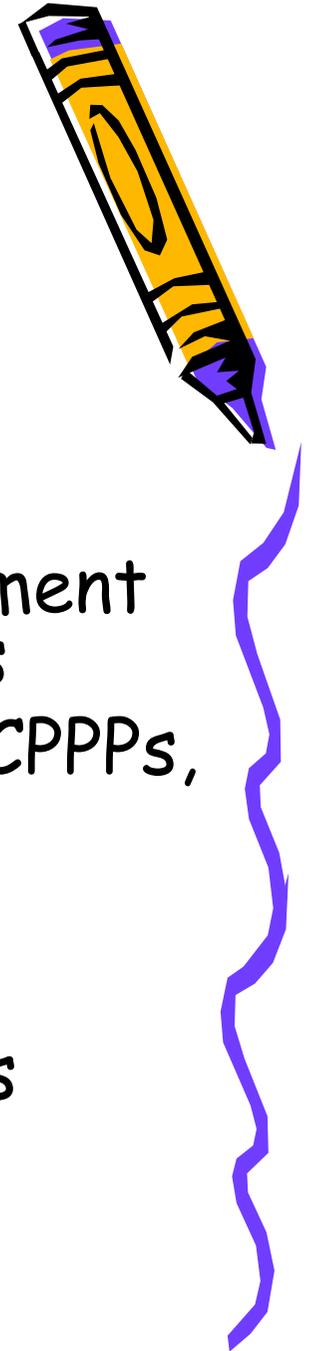
Ensuring sustainability (cont.)

- Respect for cultural values and indigenous knowledge, eg forests may have religious connotations among certain communities
- CBNRM principles - local ownership, locally appropriate policies
- Community Public Private Partnerships (CPPP)
- Sharing costs and benefits, eg community levy by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife
- Sustainable employment opportunities
- Invoke BBBEE legislation in local tourism

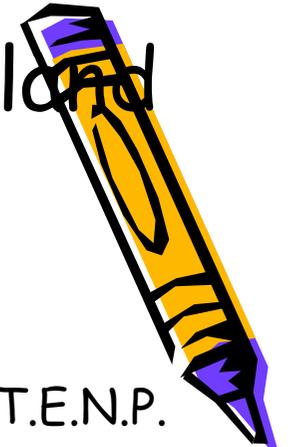


Ensuring sustainability cont.

- Encourage nurseries for medicinal plants
- Empower municipalities and traditional leaderships in conservation management
- Hold community facilitators accountable
- Promote meaningful independent employment within conservation areas, eg tour guides
- Promote sustainable rural enterprises - CPPPs, SMMEs
- Develop meaningful rural financing mechanisms
- Implement ISDP - framework to address poverty and revitalise rural economies



Case Study: Land of Tembe, Maputaland



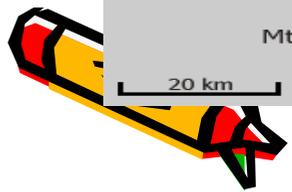
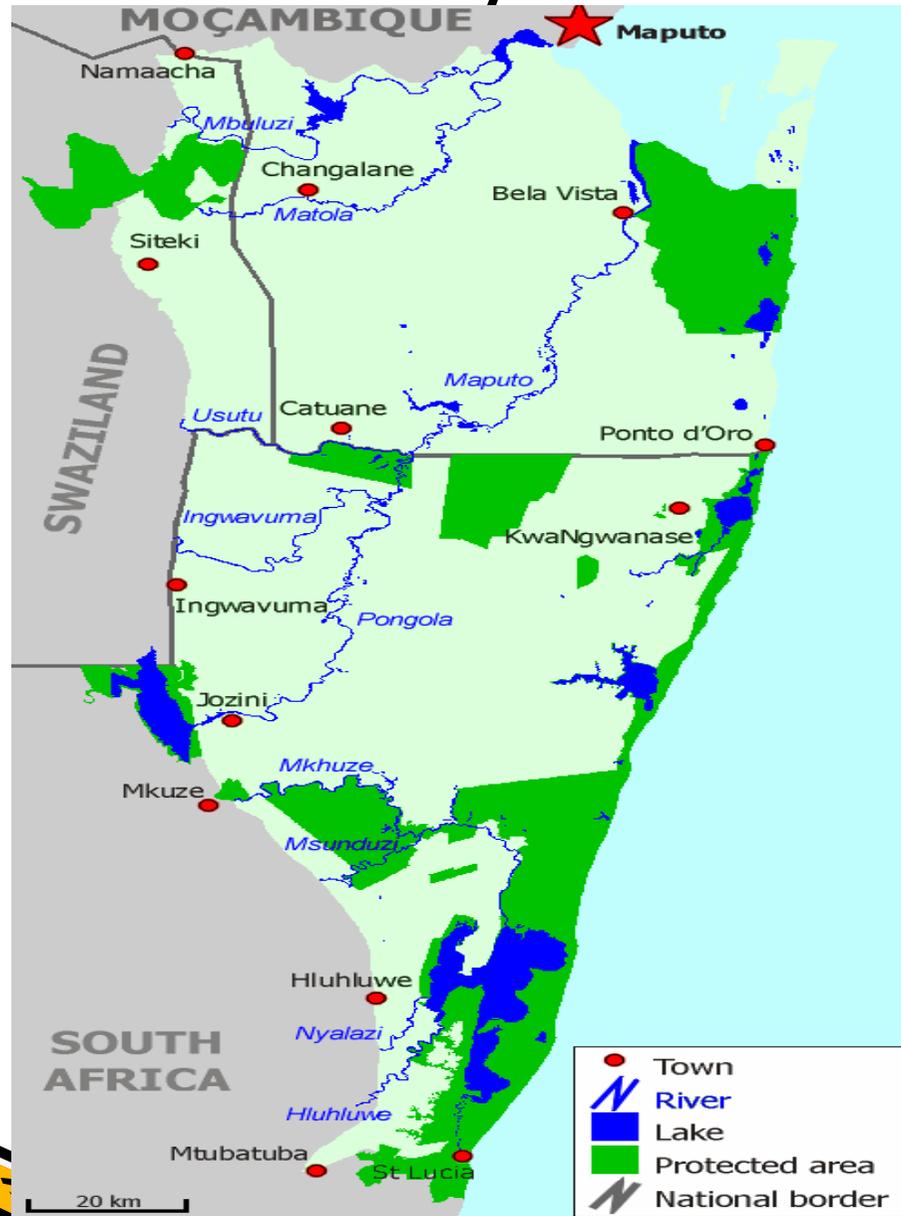
Employment within T.E.N.P.

Conservation 51

Tourism 17

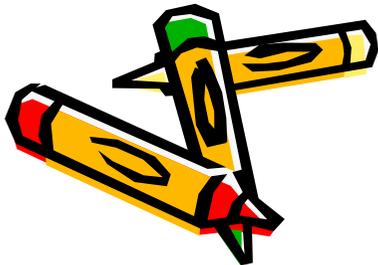
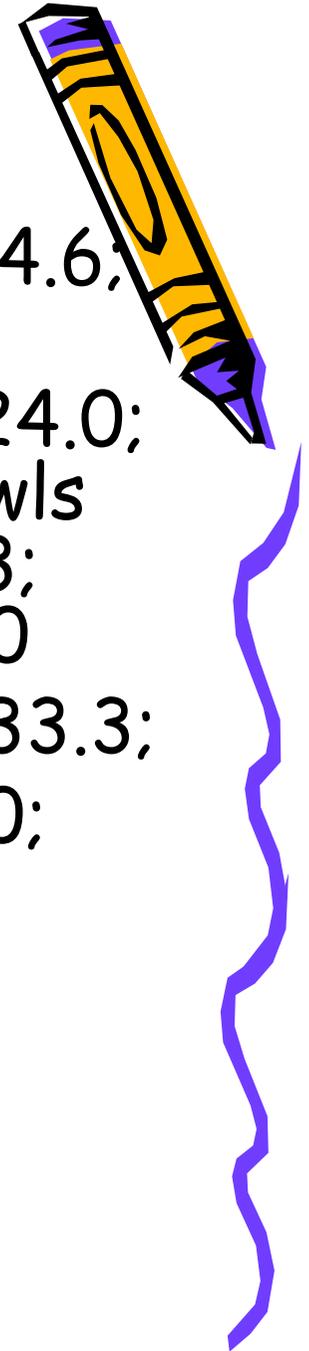
Poverty alleviation – temp
200

Independent 32 (30
dancers, 1 crafter, 1
contractor)

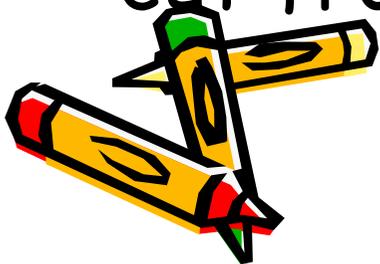
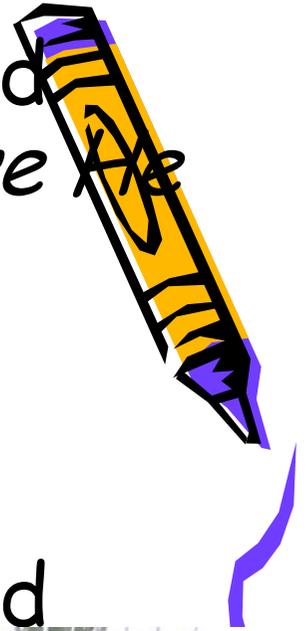


Capital Endowment

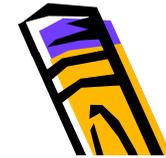
- Financial: natural resource 36%; wage 34.6; remittances 26.6; state grants 34.6
- Physical:(a) Livestock: cattle 8.0; goats 24.0; sheep 0; horses 1.3; donkeys 0; pig 0; fowls 52.0 (b) Machinery- hoe 94.6- plough 1.3; tractor 0; planter 0 (c) Infrastructure 0
- Natural: access to land - *Yes* 66.6 & *No* 33.3;
- Social:- stokvels 28.0; burial schemes 4.0; saving clubs 9.3; relatives 28.0
- Other 16.0



- Ilala: blood and soul of Maputaland
- *"In Gauteng, God gave you gold, here He gave us ilala"*, an *ilala* trader.
 - Uses:-
 - weaving - various products
 - beer (rich in riboflavin, vitamin B and nicotinic acid)
 - Tree takes six years to grow to its full potential but gets burnt and cut from year to year.

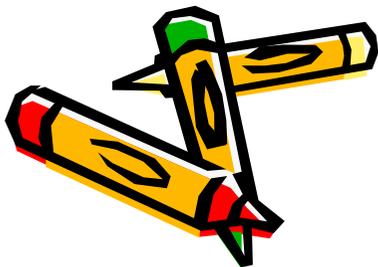


Ilala traders along the road

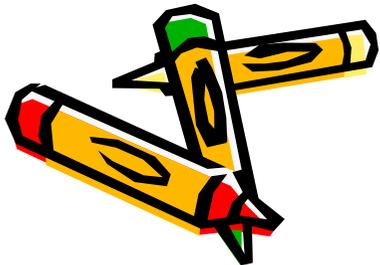


Reeds: another life supporter
(food, clothing, schooling)

- *"Without reeds, I would not be able to raise my children"*, a woman harvester.
- Harvested from within the T.E.N.P.
- Harvesting restricted to specific areas
- Used in housing
- Sold to tourism industry in particular
- Rarely used in handicrafts



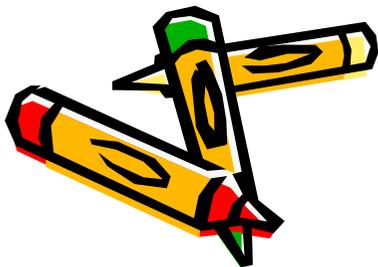
Reeds: Valuable source of income for women



Handicrafts: markets and marketing

- Passing tourist 39%
- Pension pay points 17%
- Craft market 5%
- Other 39% (products are taken to other towns eg Durban, Johannesburg, Empangeni, Jozini)

Many sell along the main road, targeting passing tourists in particular.



Brewery in the bush: slash & burn practices



• Intoxicating but rich in vitamin B - riboflavin & Nicotinic acid



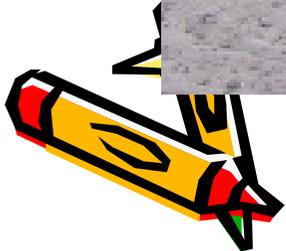
Factories under the trees



Housing using local materials



A man's house is his castle



Technological inertia: another rural economic depressant



•



Open opportunities or exploitative labour practices



DONATION

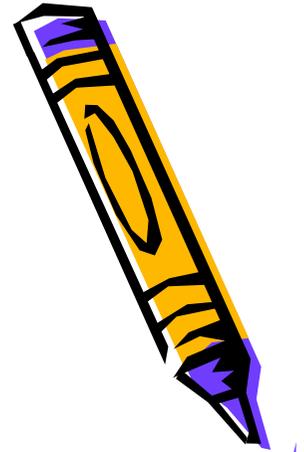
Thembalethu Craft Village is owned and managed by members of the local Zulu community.

Mr Mletshe and his family rely on donations of R10 per person in exchange for a booklet on Zulu crafts and artifacts.

All proceeds are divided between the Thembalethu Village inhabitants.

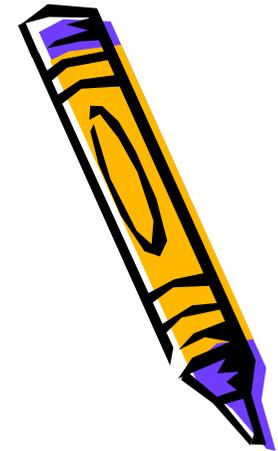
Critical questions

- To what extent are national policies understood at local levels?
- Is co-management failing, or is it simply poorly implemented?
- How are local communities compensated if costs exceed benefits?
- Should joint ventures be with individuals or community structures, or both?
- If with community structures, how do we ensure the elite do not appropriate benefits for themselves?
- Rural economic development can never be separated from natural resource use



Rural enterprises

- Rural economic development can *never* be separated from natural resource use



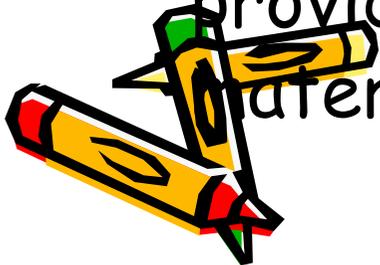
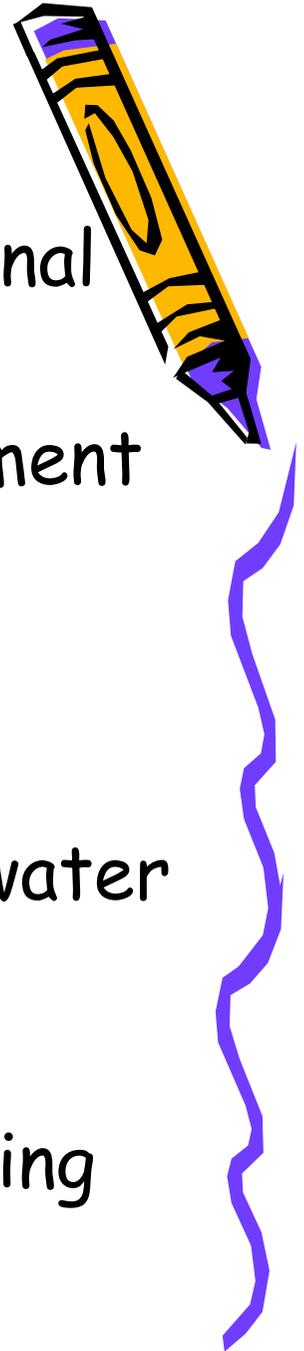
Recommendations

- Recognise access to natural resources
- Improve technology
- Provide market and marketing skills
- Improve product designs
- Apply CBNRM principles - local ownership, locally appropriate policies
- Democratisise governance institutions
- Invoke BBBEE in local tourism
- Encourage CPPPs
- Equitable sharing of costs and benefits



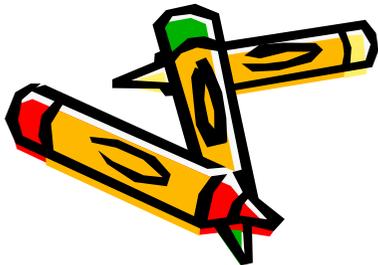
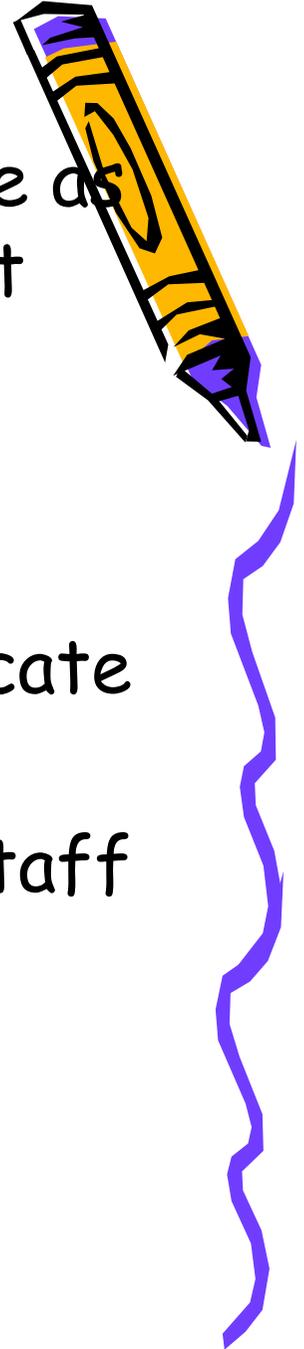
Recommendations cont.

- Encourage nurseries for medicinal plants
- Empower local municipalities and traditional leadership in conservation management
- Promote meaningful independent employment
- Hold community facilitators accountable
- Provide sound infrastructure, eg roads (access to markets)
- Ensure locally trained people to service water facilities
- Where alien species have been removed, provide alternatives (fuel wood and building materials)



Recommendations cont.

- Consider sustainable natural resource use as equal to economic, social & other relevant factors
- Do not approve proposals that have unconfirmed community participation
- Rural economic development should advocate retention of farmlands and forestlands
- Ensure rural development officials and staff understand state laws - NEMA



Selected sources

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- Chambers, R. 1993 *Whose reality counts?*
- Ellis, F. and Freeman, H A. 2001. *Rural livelihoods and poverty reduction policies*
- Ramutsindela, M. 2004. *Parks and people in post-colonial societies*
- Von Maltitz, GP and Mazibuko, S. 2006. *What role should conservation areas play in providing livelihood opportunities to adjacent communities?*

