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LOCAL LEVEL LAND DEGRADATION ASSESSMENT IN THE MPHANAMA VILLAGE –VEGETATION SURVEY

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INTRODUCTION

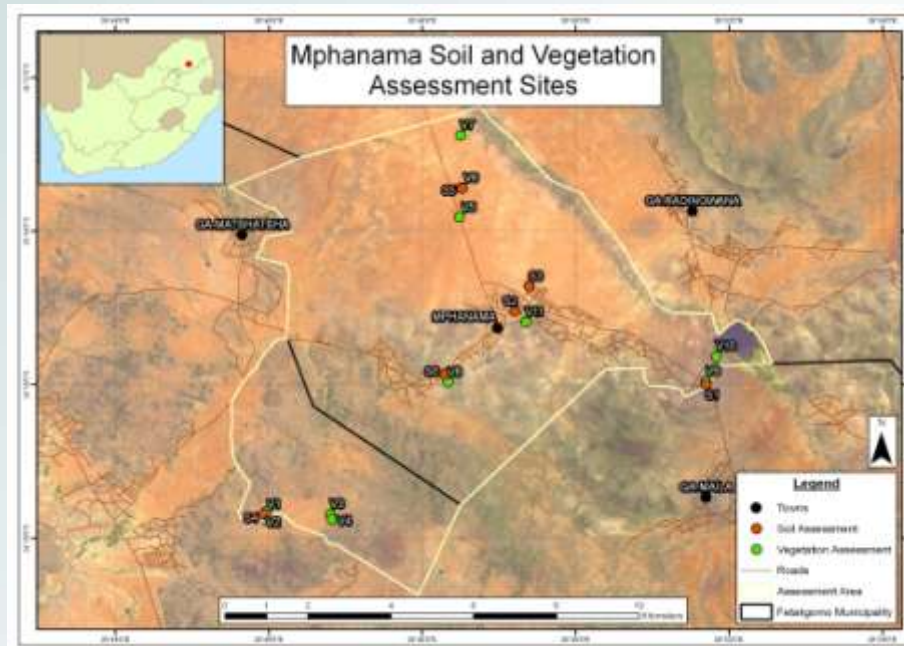
- Degradation and desertification
- Food security, poverty, urbanization, climate change, loss of biodiversity
- Vegetation degradation – species composition, loss of plant cover, bush encroachment

OBJECTIVE

- State of degradation
- Causes of degradation
- Impact of degradation on ecosystems
- Impact of degradation on land-users

STUDY AREA

- Fetakgomo Municipality – Mphanama village
- Sekhukhune Bushveld according to Mucuna and Rutherford



METHODS

Vegetation survey

LADA-L manual:

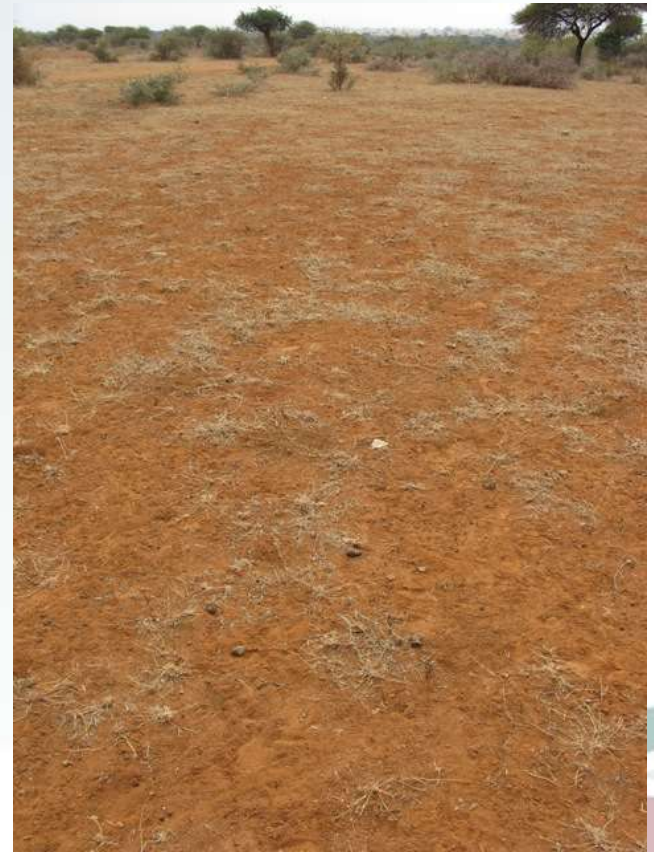
- Point method for species composition, basal cover (200m line transect)
- Veld condition – subjective method that include density, basal cover, botanical composition, vigour and the condition of the soil surface.



RESULTS

State of degradation

- Basal cover - <1% to 4%
- Veld condition – very poor
- Standing biomass – very low



DISCUSSION

Causes of degradation:

- No veld management plan
- Lack of fencing and animal control
- Stock theft – community kraals close to town and river

RESULTS (Cont.)

Impact of degradation

Soil erosion due to low vegetation cover especially close to river



RESULTS (Cont.)

Bush encroachment in area adjacent to river
Acacia tortilis



RESULTS (Cont.)

High occurrence of declared exotic and invasive species



Also Agave sisalana, Opuntia ficus-indica

RESULTS (Cont.)

Impact on livelihood

- Poverty
- Socioeconomic development implications

DISCUSSION (Cont.)

Recommendation:

- Dissemination and replication of good management practices and technologies
- Effective participation by a broad range of stakeholder groups such as the traditional leaders, community, the Department of Water and Environmental Affairs (DWEA), the Limpopo Department of Agriculture (LDA) and the municipality.

Acknowledgments

- The community members who participated in the focus group discussions, household interviews and transect walks.
- The Ward Committee for mobilizing the community
- The local Department of Agriculture for organizing and facilitating community meetings

THANK YOU

