

Mnisi Community Programme receives funding for cattle rangeland management program

Sibusiso Ndlovu & Mari-Tinka Uys

KRUGER TO CANYONS BIOSPHERE

– The University of Pretoria (UP) Veterinary School together with the Buffelshoek Trust are consulting stakeholders about the implementation of a cattle herding and marketing plan that can improve the livelihoods of rural households in Welverdiend, Dixie and Utah. The consultation is about building support for a participatory developed rangeland management plan,

which is set to improve the land's productivity, increase yield and create maximum market access for cattle owners to sell their produce. Dr Edmore Masaire says that 'the core idea is that cattle, in big herds, simulate what big game herds used to do in the African savannah. Trample the soil and plants to break the top layer, add nutrients through dung and urine. The key to improved grass cover after a short intense utilization,

maximum seven days, is a long resting period of up to twenty-two months', Explained Dr Masaire.

Plants and animals species in South Africa are protected from existing and emerging threats through the created protected areas, and a number of programmes have been established to improved land use practices in the areas around parks with a specific focus on community benefits and partnership with

professional bodies.

Centre to the protection is the Mnisi Community Programme (MCP) which forms part of the University of Pretoria in the Hluvukani area of the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Reserve (K2C BR). The MCP received Global Environmental Funding (GEF) and Small Grants Programme funding to initiate activities related to more sustainable rangeland management practices in livestock grazing areas around Welverdiend.

Leaders of the consultation process, Julia Cloete of Buffelshoek Trust and Jacques van Rooyen of UP, both emphasised that the current consultation is about getting inputs for developing a project or business development framework. 'One of the key obstacles for many years in terms of marketing meat from communal land producers has been the "Red Line" – which refers to the Foot and Mouth Disease control line', they both alluded to this point.

Lion Thete, one of the cattle owners in Welverdiend, says that the community is very excited about this possibility, 'But we know there will be challenges in our way to full implementation', he concluded.



Light shed on malaria situation in Hoedspruit

Barry Peart

HOEDSPRUIT - Philip Kruger from the Malaria Institute in Tzaneen gave a fascinating and authoritative lecture about malaria at the Municipal Hall in Hoedspruit on January 21. About 60 people attended, from a wide range of backgrounds such as lodges, farms, hawkers markets and also from abroad. It was obvious from the large number of questions at the end that the talk was very interesting and relevant.

Historically malaria had been a major problem in the Lowveld until the 1940's. For example, there were 9311 deaths in Sekhukhune in 1931. Today there are very few deaths, thanks in large part to a DDT spraying program which started in the 1940's. Malaria persists in the East and North Lowveld areas, and there is still the possibility of an explosion in the number of cases during any summer.

Maruleng has malaria cases every summer, and the number so far this year is fairly normal. There are more cases further north in Phalaborwa and Giyani. The number of deaths is typically 1% of the number of patients, which is unacceptably high.

Humans are the hosts for the malaria parasite, and it is transferred from one human to another by one particular type of female *Anopheles* mosquito.

The larvae take about two weeks to develop in the mosquito after sucking blood from the human carrier, and then after another human is bitten it takes a further two weeks for symptoms to develop. Prompt treatment then is essential to avoid the disease becoming more complex. Philip gave a useful checklist for malaria avoidance:

A for Awareness. People must know about factors such as location, time of day, time of the year and accommodation which affect malaria risk.

B for Bite avoidance. Try to avoid being outside between dusk and dawn, and if outside at this time wear long sleeved clothing and long trousers. Apply insect repellent (DEET based products are recommended) (*DEET is not related to DDT*). When in higher risk areas use fans or air conditioning to circulate air, spray the inside of the house with insecticides, use impregnated mosquito nets, etc.

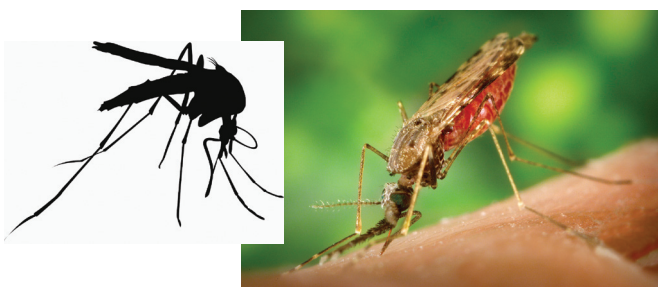
C for Chemoprophylaxis (prevention of disease by means of taking medication).

This is not recommended for residents in low risk areas such as Hoedspruit, but may be appropriate for overseas visitors; especially if they do not have access to rapid testing and diagnosis when they return home. Chemoprophylaxis can extend the incubation period of the parasite.

D for Diagnosis. If in doubt GET TESTED! In Limpopo public health clinics and hospitals carry out 300,000 to 500,000 tests per year, the vast majority of which are negative. Common symptoms are headache, sweating, tiredness, aches in the back or limbs, abdominal pain, diarrhoea, loss of appetite, nausea and vomiting, fever and chills. Many of these are typical flu symptoms.

E for Early effective treatment. Malaria should be treated as a medical emergency. Complications can start after 48 hours.

Philip can be contacted on philip.kruger@dhsd.limpopo.gov.za.



New BEE codes to impact business in South Africa

Corinus du Toit (AHI Manager Business Chamber Liaison and Development, Limpopo and Mpumalanga)

MOKOPANE - The Mokopane Business Chamber will present a half day seminar on February 7 on the changed black economic empowerment codes (BEE), as published at the end of 2013.

The changed BEE codes will have a definite impact on business. Although agencies will only start measuring the codes from October 2014, businesses have to start implementing it from January. The BEE codes will also be discussed in the context of other existing sector codes, as well as the BEE requirements of the mining sector.

The presenter is Louis McLaren, a specialist on BEE. He has been assisting businesses to understand the legal requirements and compliance since the inception of BEE in 2007.

'On the day we want to ensure that businesses understand the impact the changed codes will have on them and allow them to ask questions,' says Gerrit van der Veen, Mokopane Business Chamber president. 'Under the new codes most businesses will experience a substantial change in BEE levels. It is therefore critical that decision makers

be knowledgeable on how to manage the potential negative impact thereof'.

The seminar starts at 08h30 for 09h00 at NG Hulp en Hoop Gemeentesentrum in HF Verwoerd Street, Mokopane and will conclude at 13h00. Cost is R50 for a member of any

business chamber, provided booking is done via his own chamber, otherwise R100.

Bookings and enquiries can be done at Mokopane Business Chamber via email at mokopane.bti@mweb.co.za or 015 491 8458 in the mornings.

There is no passion to be found playing small - in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living.

~ Nelson Mandela

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