

# Working Towards a Community Vision for Landscape Management- Consultation Feedback





The rate of spread for invasive alien plants is greater than the current capacity for control. The increasing willingness of landowners and community members to participate in community landscape management shows potential to assist with controlling the spread of invasive plants in our area.

In 2015 the Kaaimans to Touw River Ecological Restoration Forum (KTT) hosted a community hacking day in Wilderness Heights. Interviews with participants expressed some of the following sentiments:

*“The community cares about our environment”*

*“Supporting community projects, working together. Start small and dream big”*

*“Perhaps community projects could be another way of controlling IAP”*

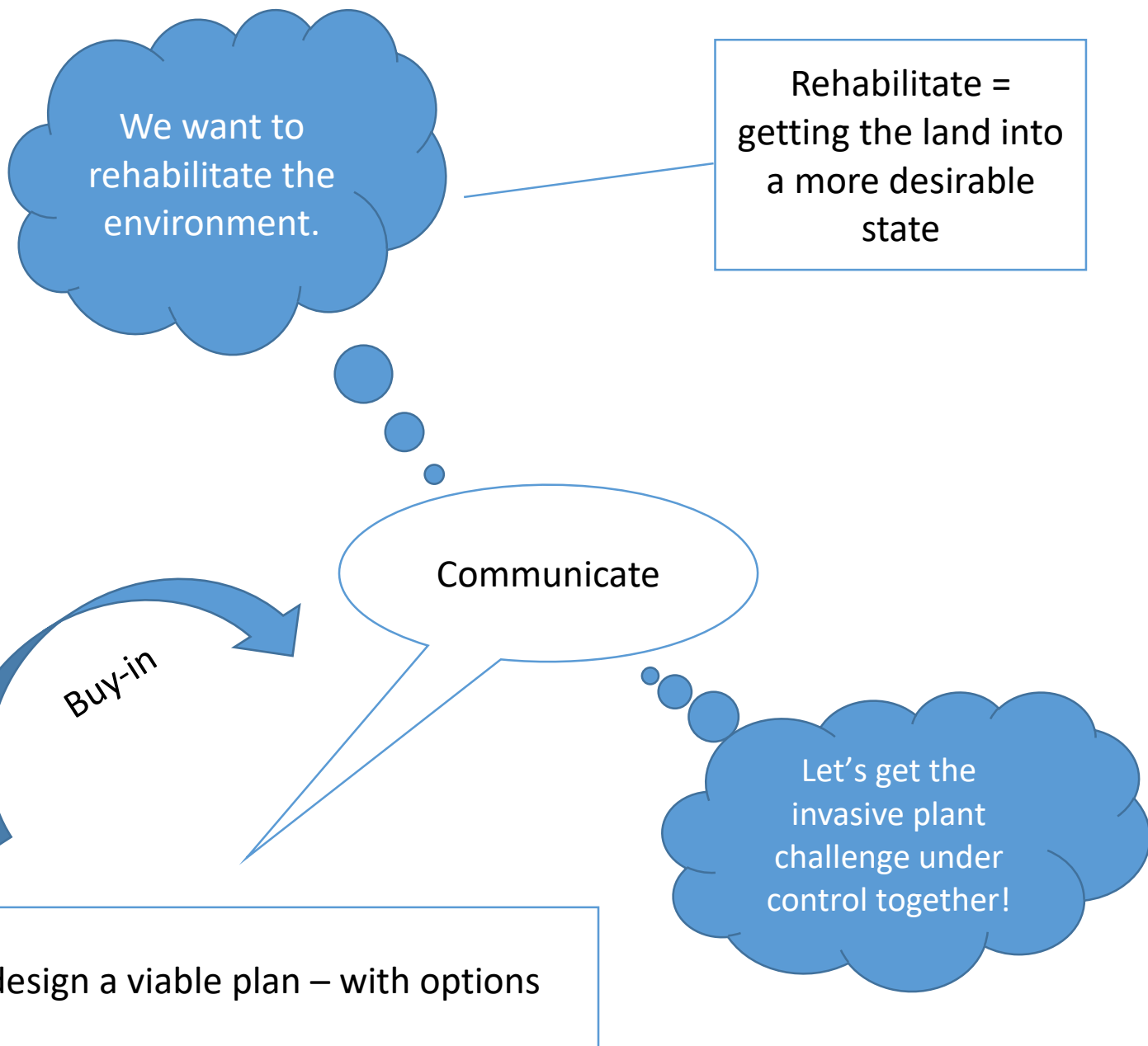
With this in mind, the Sustainability Research Unit (SRU) of NMMU coordinated an invasive plant sharing and consultation event for the Wilderness Heights community on 29th November 2016.

The aim of the event was to share information from a local landowner’s perspective and to consult with regards to the willingness to develop a community landscape management project in the Wilderness Heights area. The following feedback reflects the results of the consultation.



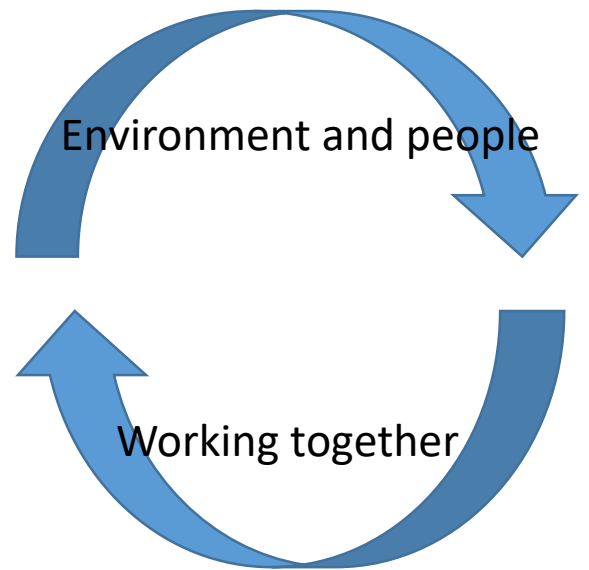
## *What are the first steps to take?*

- Clarify intent
- Identify common ground/vision
- Start where positive energy exists



## *What is a desirable landscape?*

- Resilient to environmental change
- Water security - rehabilitation of wetlands, streams and rivers
- Corridors for wildlife
- Invasive plants under control – stop the spread!



People have different ideas of what is desirable!

Is there room for all at a landscape level?

Natural state for wildlife = forest / fynbos

I love all trees = biocontrol to stop the spread

Farming = grazing and safety for livestock

# What do we already have to work with?



## Existing initiatives

Touw River Conservancy  
Wilderness Chat groups  
WALEAF – Wilderness and Lakes  
Environmental Action Forum  
Wilderness Rate Payer's Association

## Options for control

### **Fast:**

NEMBA - directives  
Working for Water  
Private/commercial  
contractors

### **Slow:**

Hacking groups  
Gardeners  
Wood cutters  
Biocontrol

## Lessons learned from others

Conservancies  
Individuals  
Authorities

Clearing variables  
Methods  
Tips  
Inhibiting factors



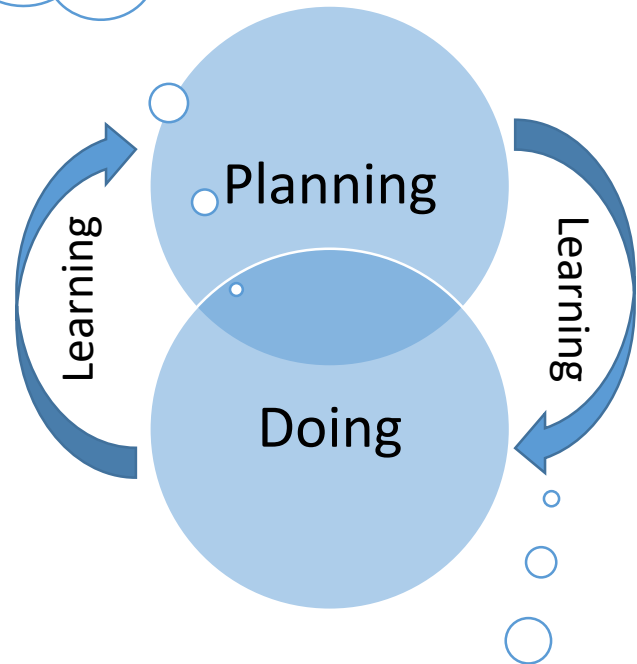
# Where to now?



## Planning

A community mapping workshop to:

- Share knowledge and prioritise - corridors, view sheds, fire risk, water ways
- Develop and anchor a vision
- Identify sites for action where small interventions will make a big difference
- Identify champions to inspire momentum and keep community informed



## Doing

- Group hacking days
- Bring a friend or neighbour
- Citizen science – alert authorities to sightings of Madeira Vine and other priority invasive plants



## Learning

- Share your stories and listen to others
- Participate
- Read more information at
  - [www.invasive.org](http://www.invasive.org)
  - [www.kaaimans2touwkt.wordpress.com](http://www.kaaimans2touwkt.wordpress.com)
  - <http://www.arc.agric.za/arc-ppri/Pages/ARC-PPRI-Homepage.aspx>

Please report sightings to:  
**weed.alert@sanparks.org**  
or report using  
**<https://www.ispotnature.org/projects/spot-madeira-vine-garden-route>**  
Or nearest SANParks WfW office

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING



Please send us your feedback

[Samantha.mcculloch@nmmu.ac.za](mailto:Samantha.mcculloch@nmmu.ac.za)