

# REFLECTIONS: LOCAL & COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES



# INTRODUCTION

- How we define a community – scale, economies, homogenous units
- Rural & Urban context – often not dissimilar concerns
- “*South African Country Report on Climate Change*” - 3 chapters devoted to impacts of change on plant, animal and marine diversity.
- Focus areas - impact on agriculture, rangelands, forestry, tourism, health, water resources
- Spatial and Temporal scale of impacts
- How to inform communities and respond?

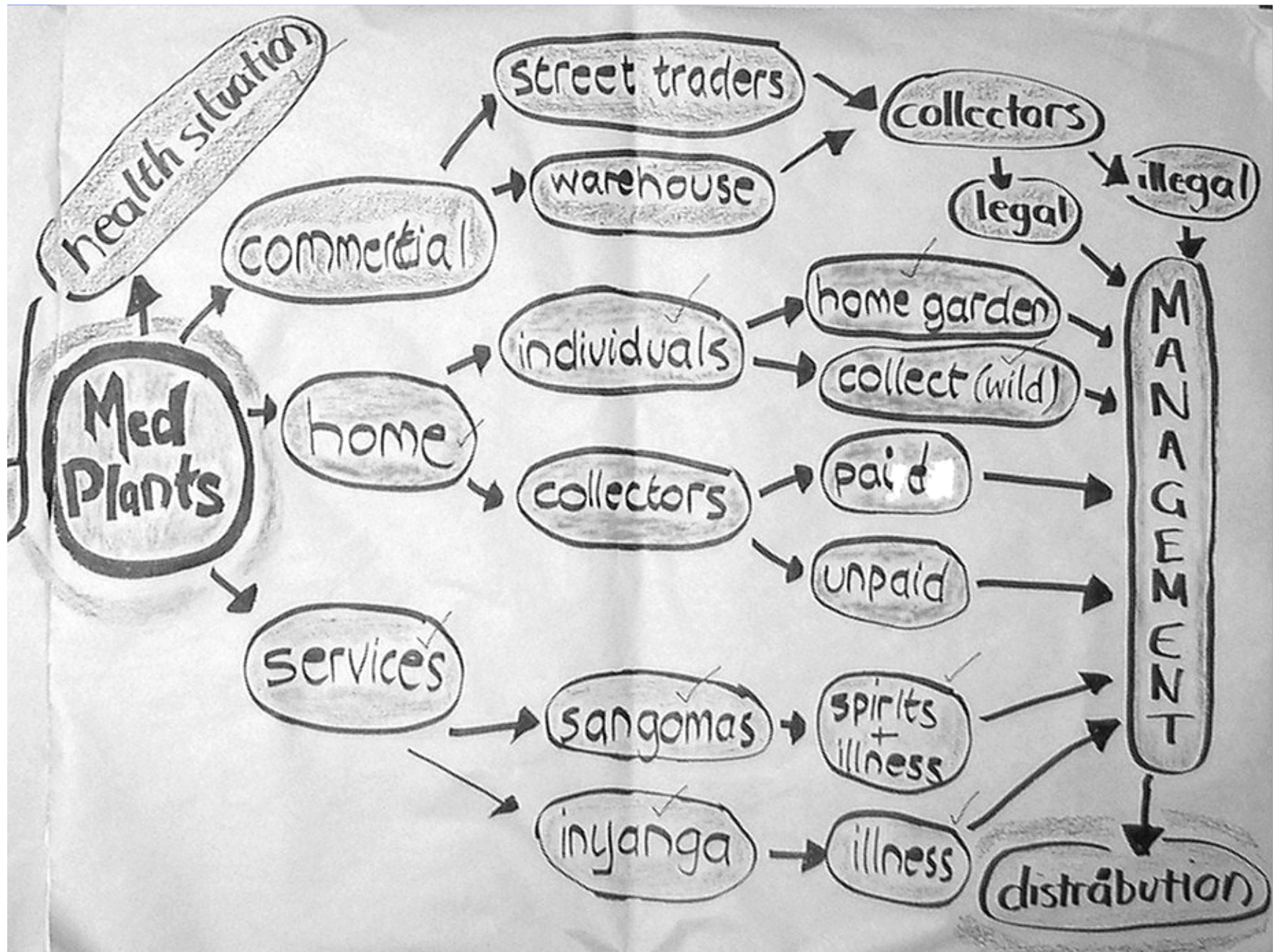
# INTRODUCTION

- Role as educator and researcher?
- The United Nations' Millennium Development Goals and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
- Decline of habitats and functionality
- Three key challenges:-
  - *Scale of information available, accessibility and dissemination*
  - *Economic / political / social marginalisation*
  - *Short- over long-term benefits – survival versus sustainability*







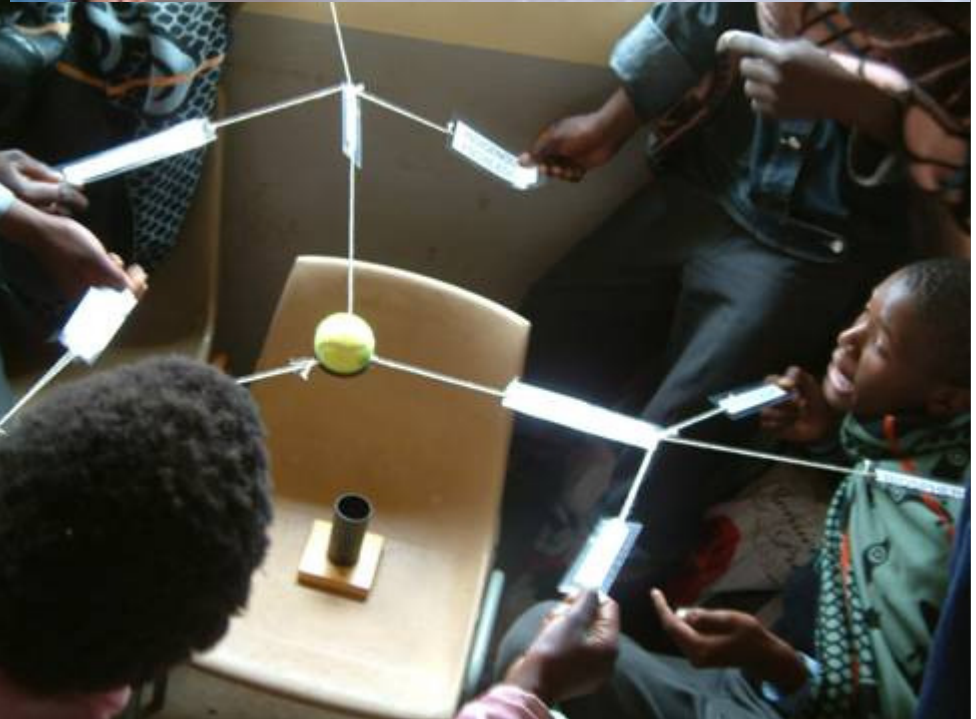
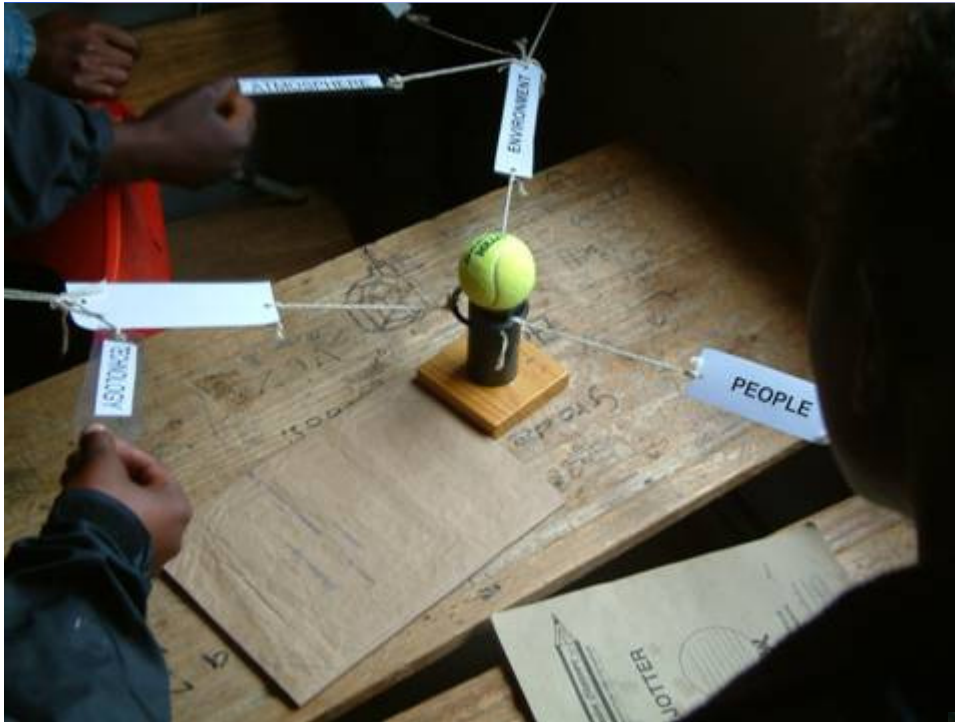
















# REFLECTIONS

- *Need to consider:*
  - Health impacts – HIV/AIDS, Cholera, Malaria – effect on service provision, family structure
  - Increase vulnerability to natural hazards
  - Reliance on state-welfare
  - How are natural resources valued
  - How to manage and conserve
  - Holistic policy responses, incld. Environ. and Human dev. concerns
  - Commercial versus subsistence farming
  - Opportunity to diversify crops & diet

# REFLECTIONS

- ***We need:***
  - Detailed information - though field studies,
  - Understanding of 'perceived' agric. systems (changes in patterns).
  - Constraints – land tenure, access to information, funding, 'functional urbanites', traditional values, movement away from farming, non-farming alternatives
  - Inclusion of marginalised & participatory approach, ie *Forest Participatory Management*

# REFLECTIONS

- ***We have:***
  - ***University level training***
  - ***Mid-career professional training***
  - ***Government – level training***
  - ***Centre for African Crop Science***
  - ***African Centre for Food Security***
  - ***Hydrology / Climate change impact***
  - ***Community outreach programmes***
  - ***‘Research in both Urban & Rural environs.***



# QUESTIONS

- How to impart knowledge gained and incorporated into indigenous knowledge and value systems?
- How to explain climate change and consequences thereof to communities?
- Shared Knowledge, Understanding, Communication, Co-operation



***FINISHED!***

