

### **Authorship reflexivity statement**

This article emerges from a long-term collaborative effort. As explained in the main text, different authors took on different roles, but all are recognised equally with an alphabetical listing of authors. There are no lead authors. In terms of roles, Iyleen Judy Bwerinofa, Jacob Mahenehene, Makiwa Manaka, Bulisiwe Mulotshwa, Moses Mutoko and Vincent Sarayi were based in the study sites and collected data on a monthly basis. This was relayed to Felix Murimbarimba via WhatsApp messages/conversations and the findings were compiled together with Ian Scoones, who wrote a blogpost for each reflection period. Based on these inputs, Ian Scoones drafted the paper, which was reviewed and checked by all team members. A period of fieldwork in February 2022 complemented this process, with interviews undertaken by Felix Murimbarimba, Jacob Mahenehene, Makiwa Manaka, Moses Mutoko, Vincent Sarayi and Ian Scoones. The core team that contributed to this paper (Jacob Mahenehene, Felix Murimbarimba and Ian Scoones) have been working together since the early 1990s and have been publishing together since then.