

# **REFLECTIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS OVER SOUTH AFRICA:**

## **WHY FOCUS ON WATER?**

***Roland Schulze***

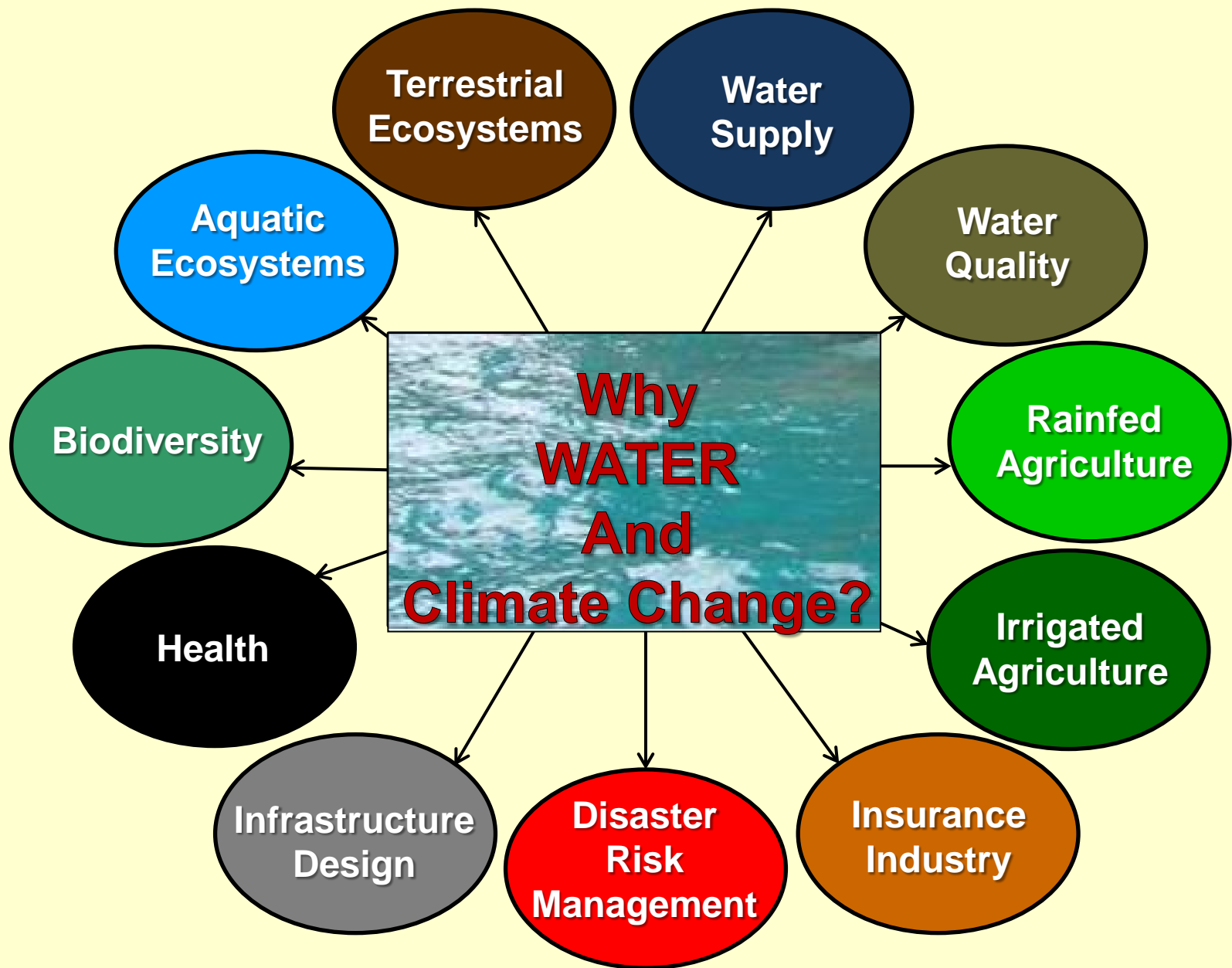
**Professor Emeritus of Hydrology & Senior Research Associate**

**Centre for Water Resources Research**

**University of KwaZulu-Natal**

**Pietermaritzburg, South Africa**





# ***But, let's start with some History !***



## ***Svante ARRHENIUS***

***1859 born 15 February***

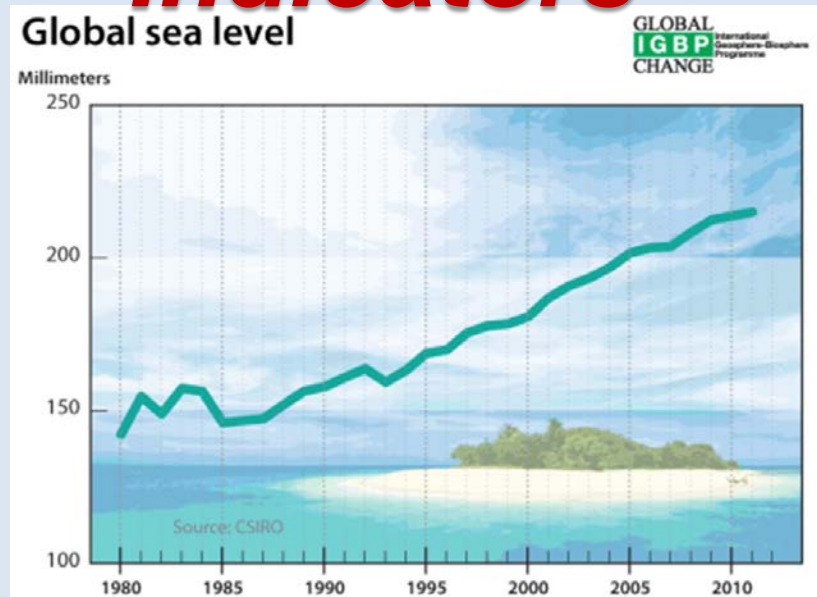
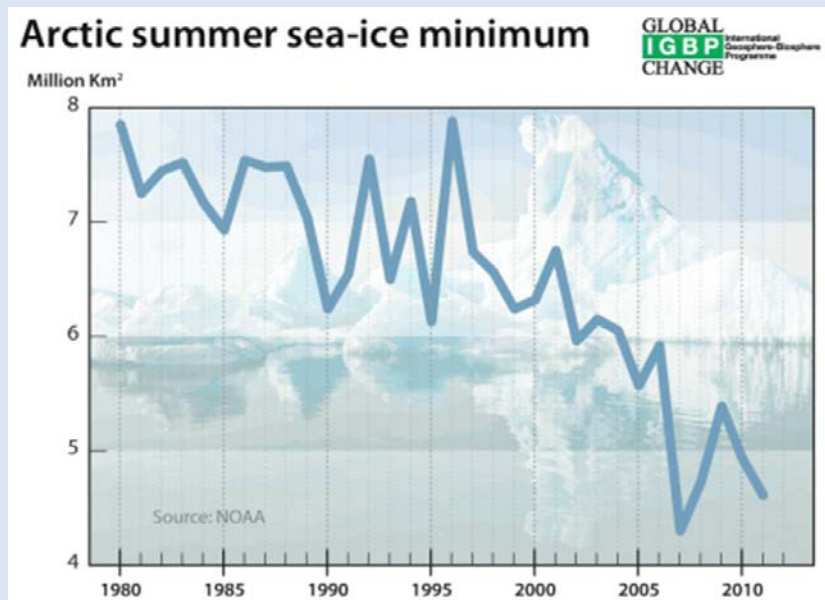
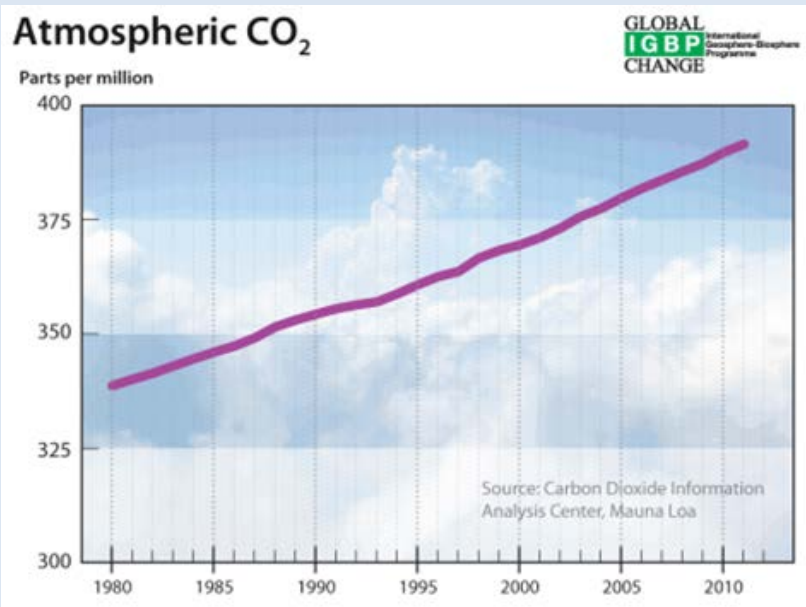
***1884 PhD in Physics 4<sup>th</sup>***

***Class***

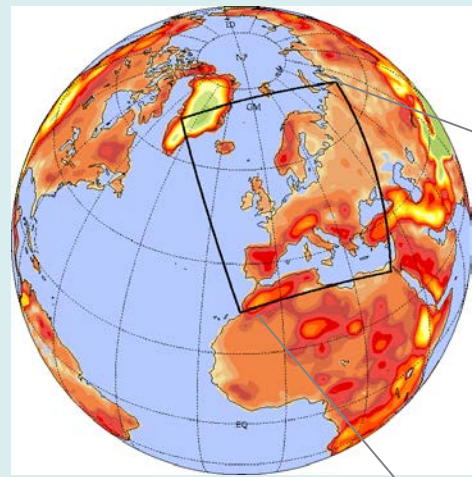
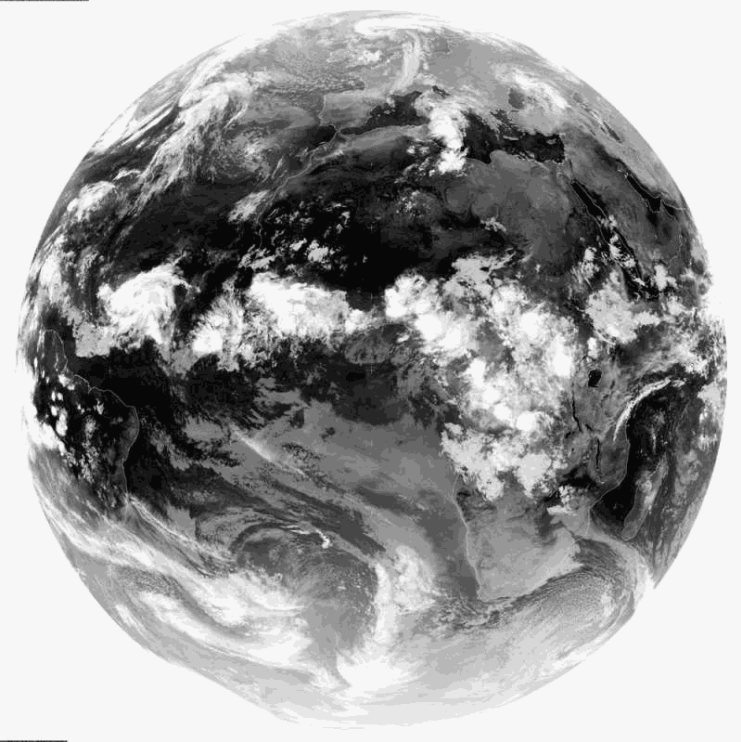
***1896 First scientist to  
calculate how changes in  
CO<sub>2</sub> through burning  
fossil fuels could alter  
surface temperatures  
through the Greenhouse  
Effect***

***1903 Nobel Prize for  
Chemistry***

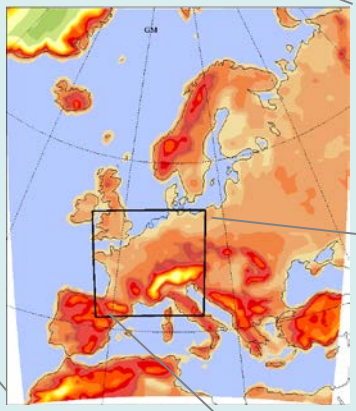
# Science is now Monitoring CC with a Composite Index, like a Stock Exchange Index, Made up of Multiple Indicators



# ***CC is a Global Issue, but Impacts/Adaptations are Local; hence Downscaling***

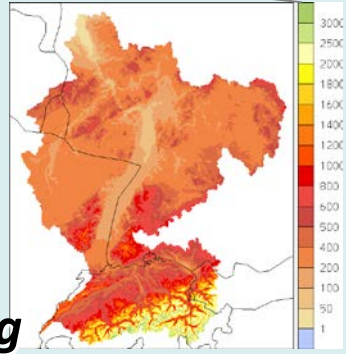


***Global Climate Models (GCMs)  
(e.g. HadCM3, ECHAM5, ~200 km)***



***Regional Climate Models (RCMs) or statistical downscaling (~25 km)***

***Impact Models (~5 km)***

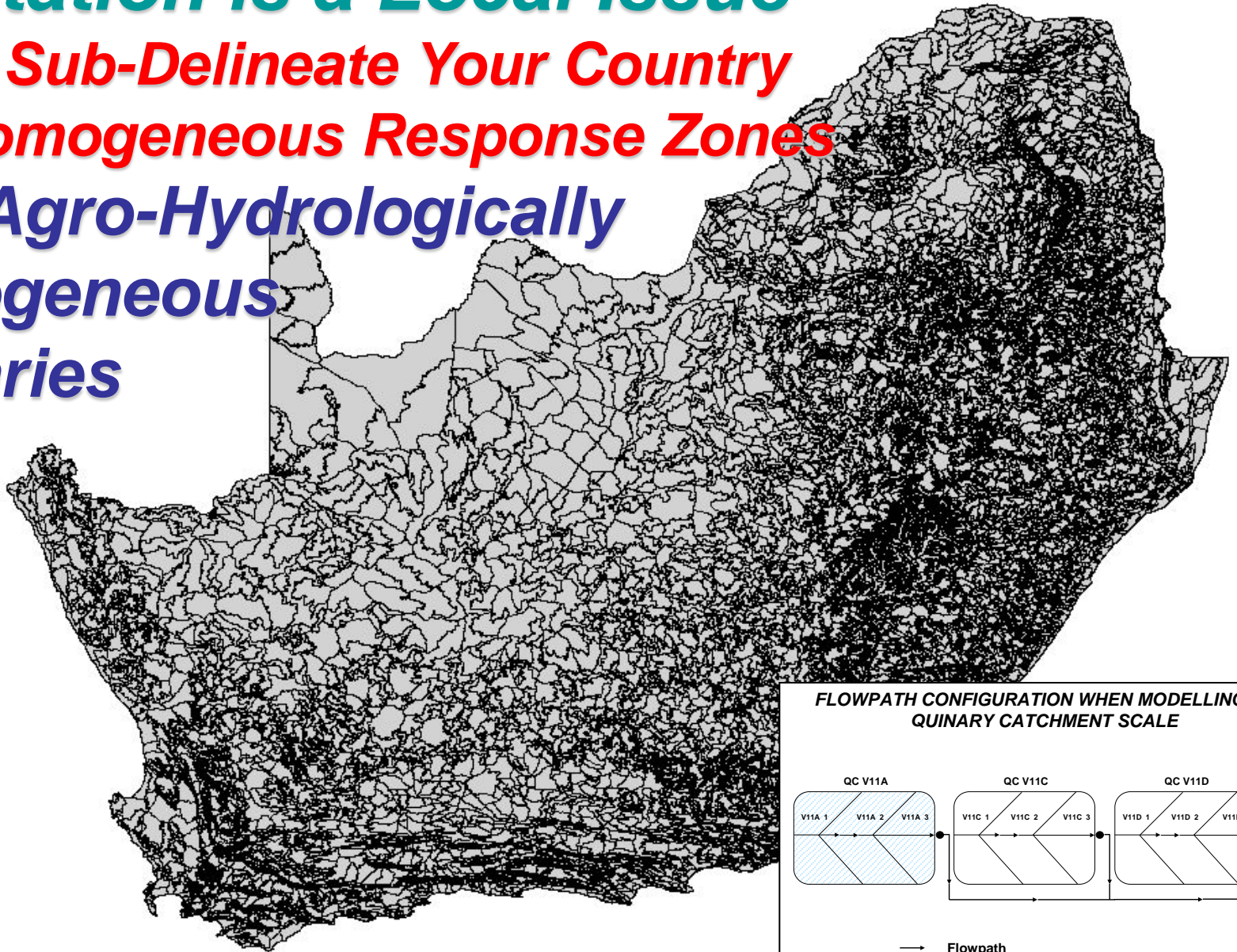


***Hewitson, 2010***

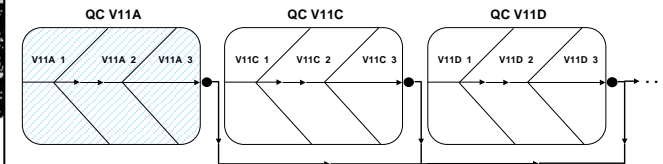
# *Adaptation is a Local Issue*

*Hence Sub-Delineate Your Country  
into Homogeneous Response Zones*

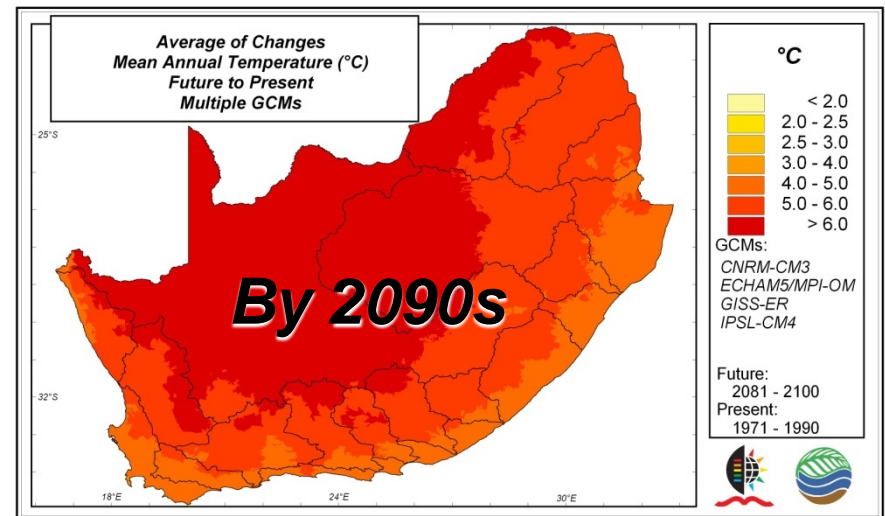
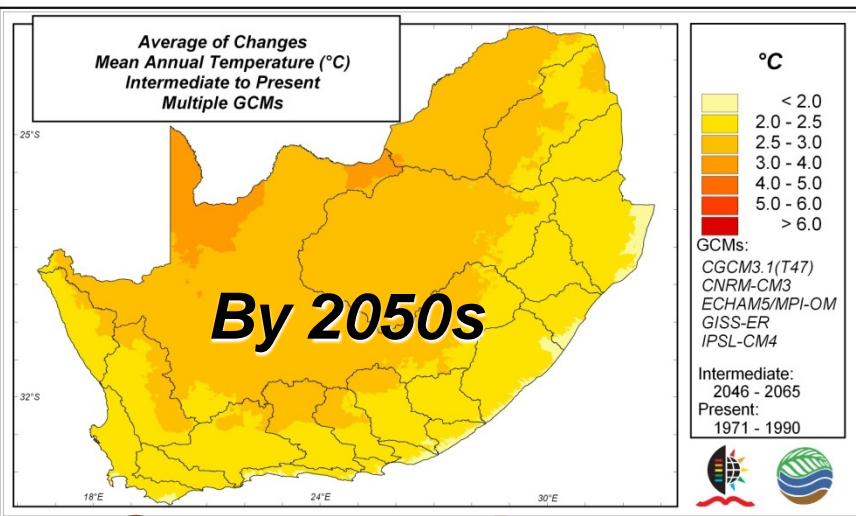
*5838 Agro-Hydrologically  
Homogeneous  
Quinaries*



**FLOWPATH CONFIGURATION WHEN MODELLING AT  
QUINARY CATCHMENT SCALE**



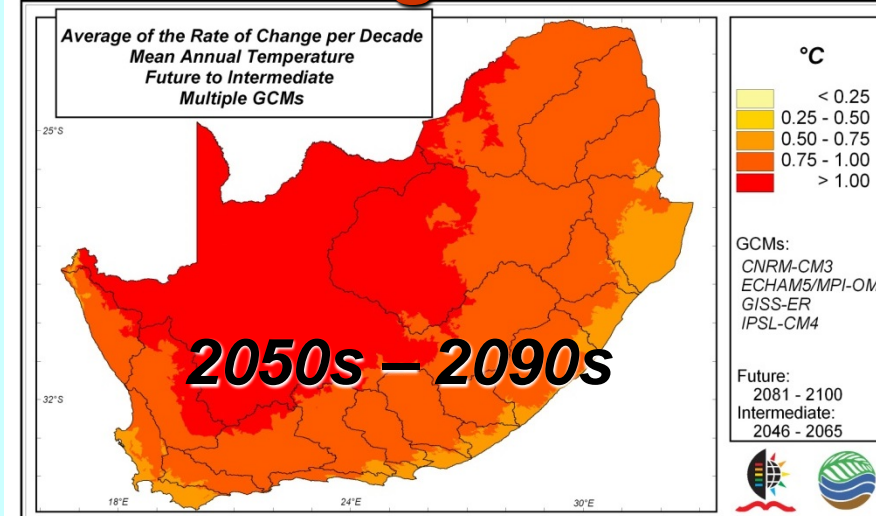
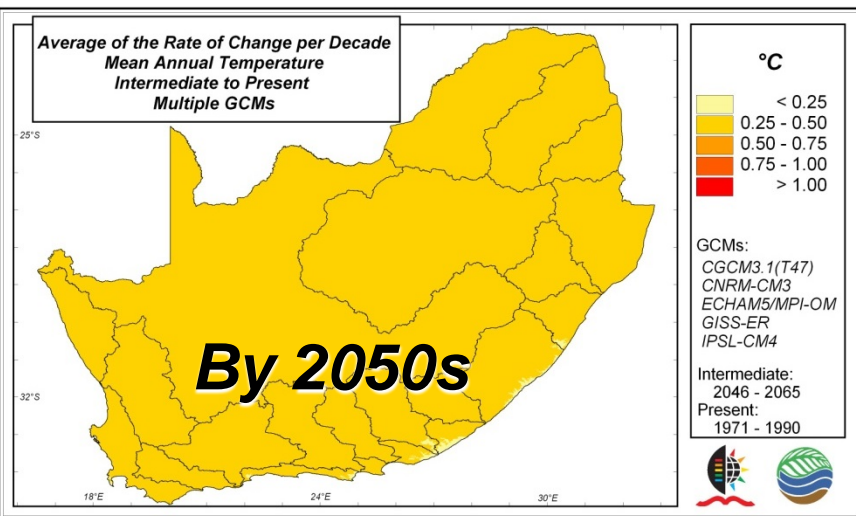
- Flowpath
- Quaternary Catchment Outlet
- External Quaternary Catchment
- Internal Quaternary Catchment



# Changes in Mean Annual Temperature are Projected to be Significant

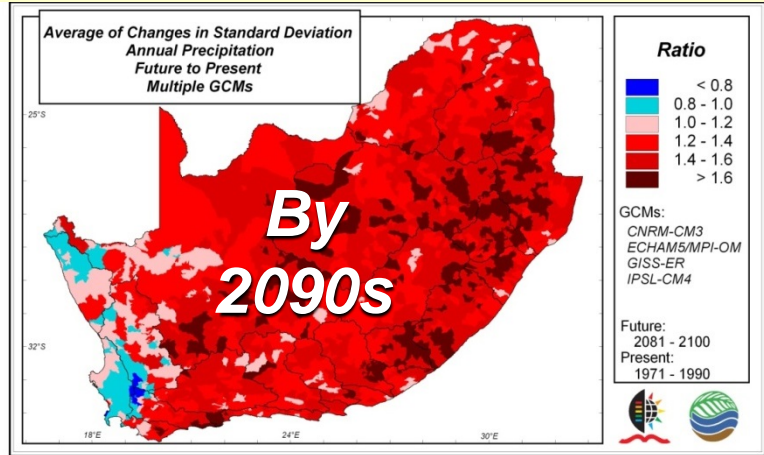
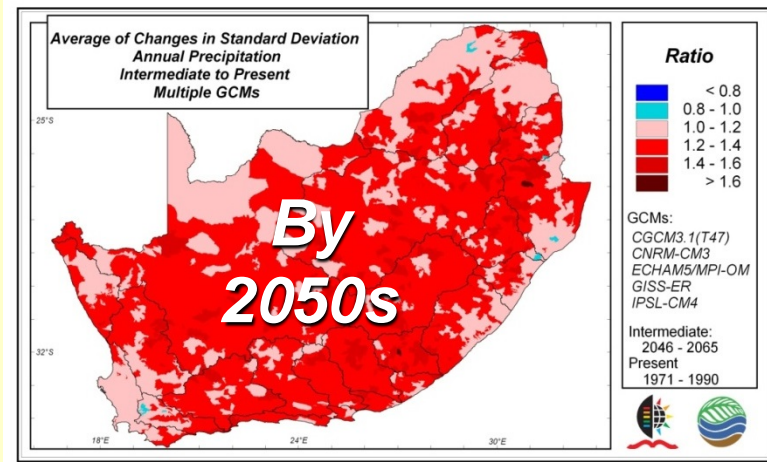
What are the consequences for SA's Water & Agric?

With the Rate of Change Increasing Over Time

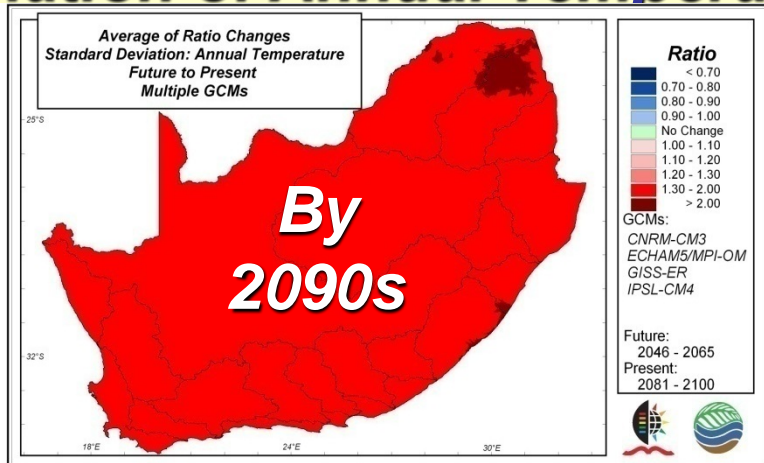
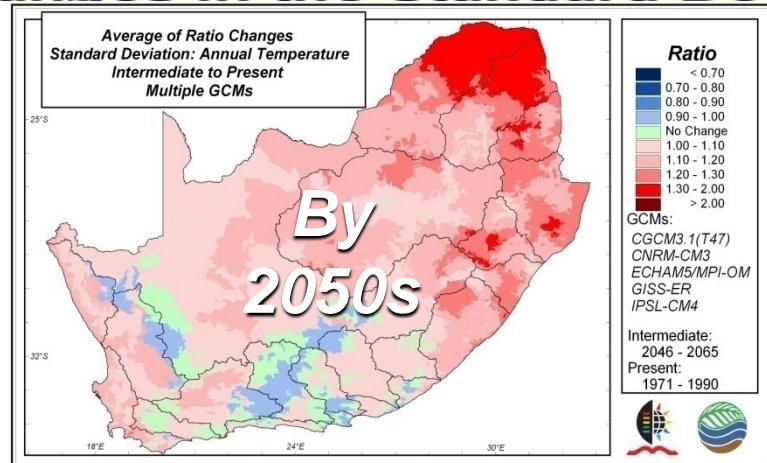


# Future Year-to-Year Variability will Change...the Case of Projected Rainfall and Temperature over SA

## Changes in the Standard Deviation of Annual Rainfall



## Changes in the Standard Deviation of Annual Temperature



**and what are the consequences for water/food security?**

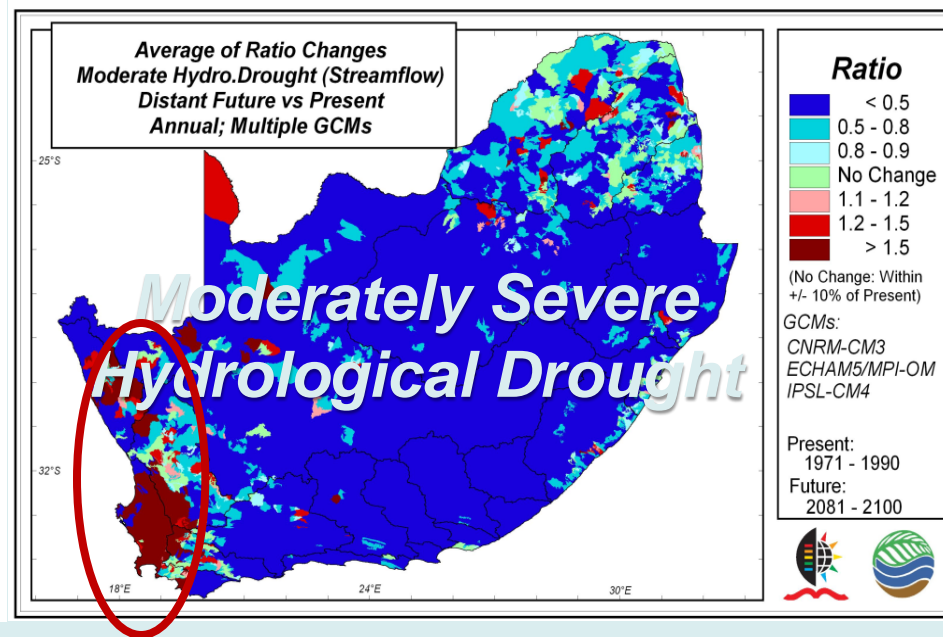
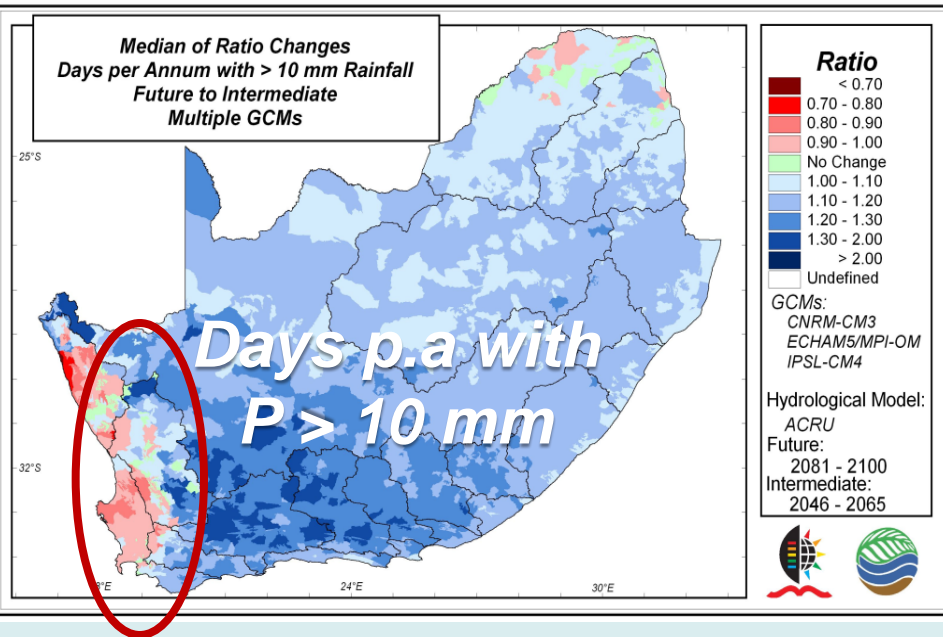


# Some Areas will be 'Winners'

(with new opportunities)

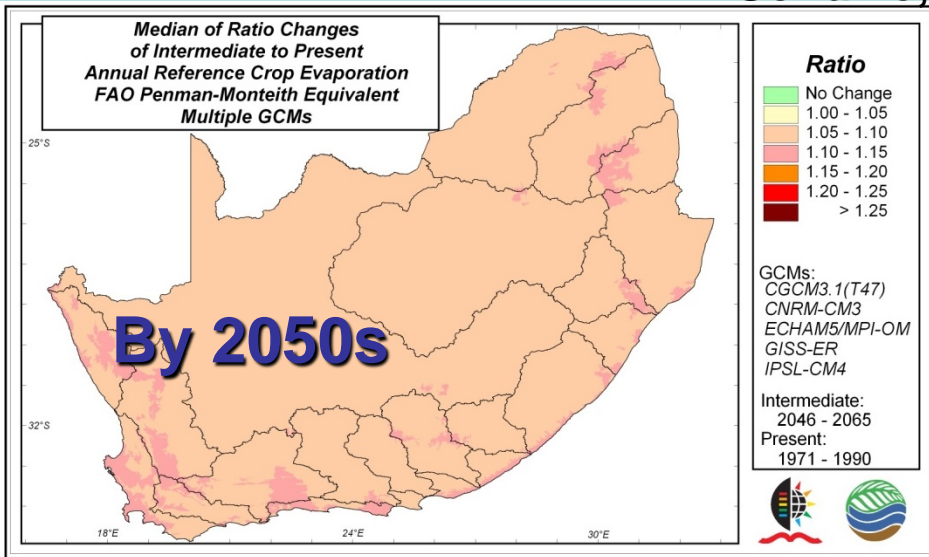
# Others will be 'Hot-Spots of Concern'

(especially in distant future, with added stresses)

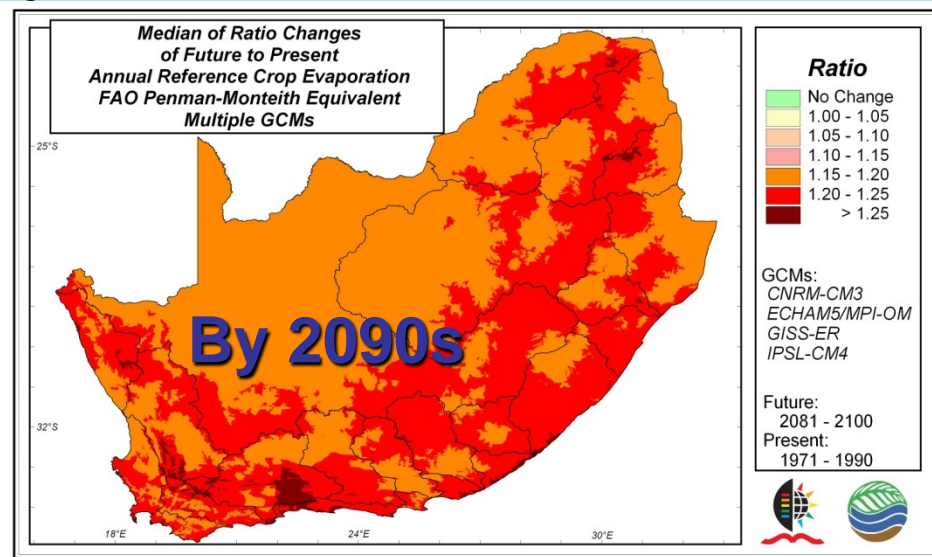


# Evaporation from Dams and from the Soil is Projected to Increase

Schulze, 2011



5 – 10 %



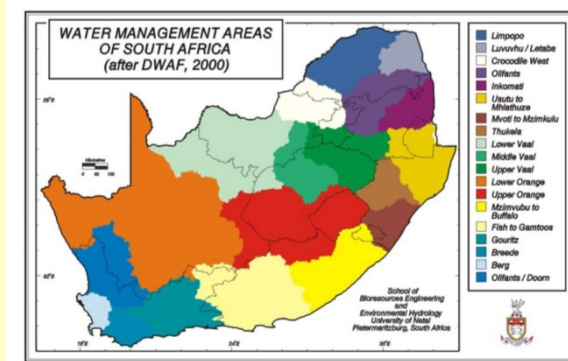
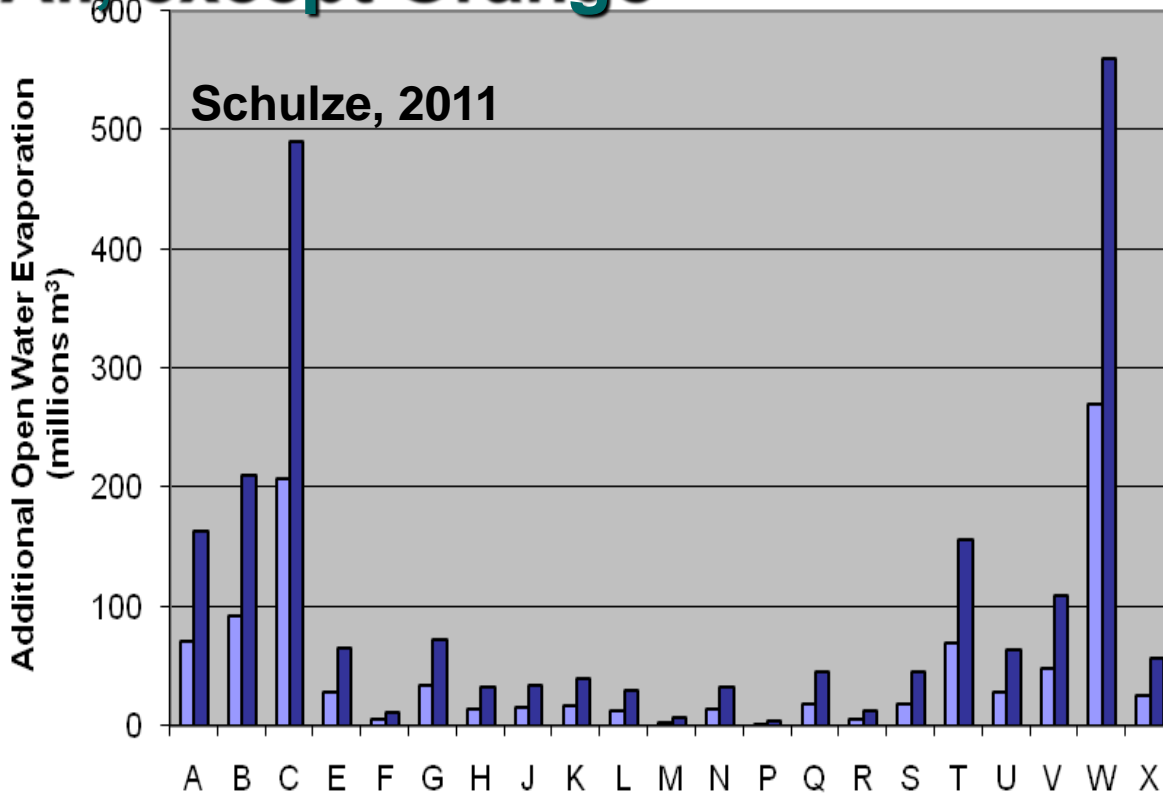
15 – 25 %

**But, what will the consequences be?**

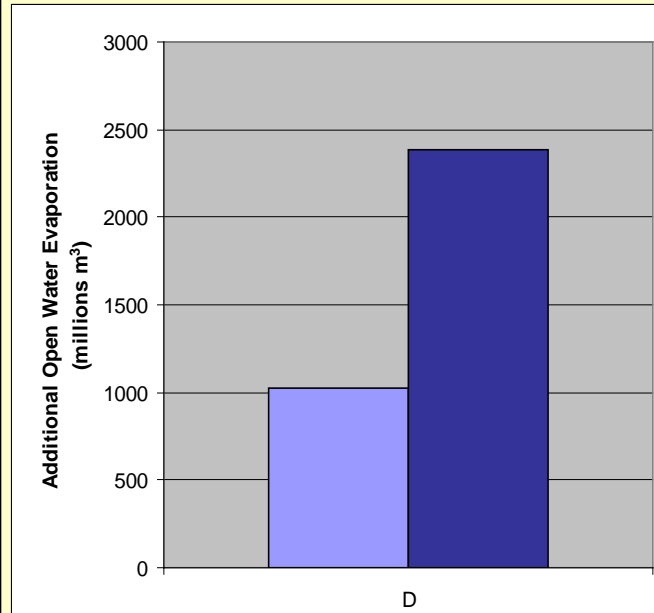
# Additional Evaporation per Primary Catchment from Open Water Bodies (dams, rivers, wetlands) by 2050s (light) and 2090s (dark)

All, except Orange

Schulze, 2011

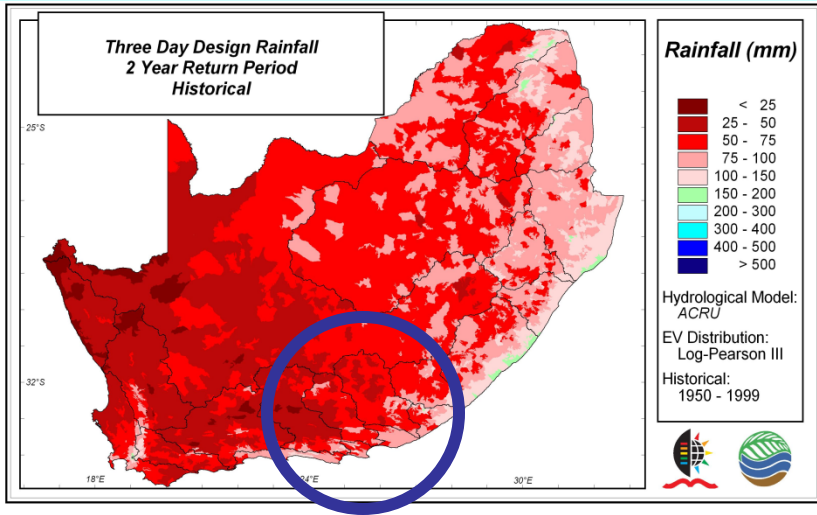


Orange

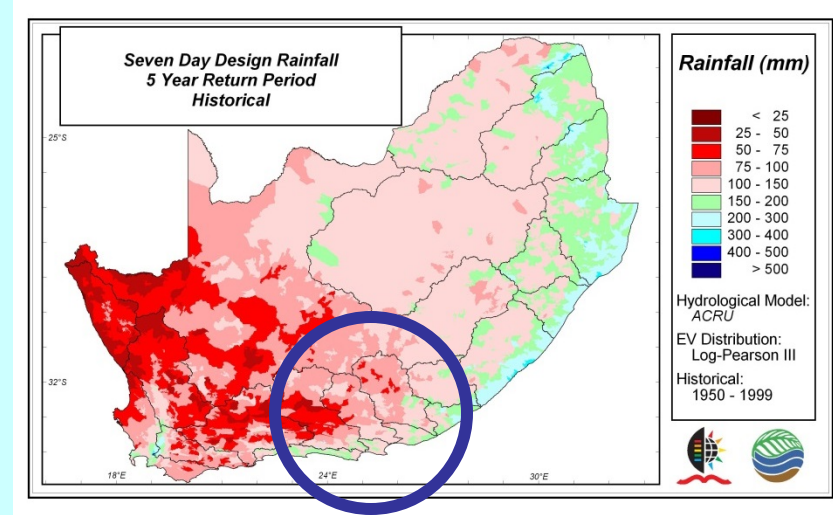


# Long Duration Extreme Rainfalls are Projected to Change

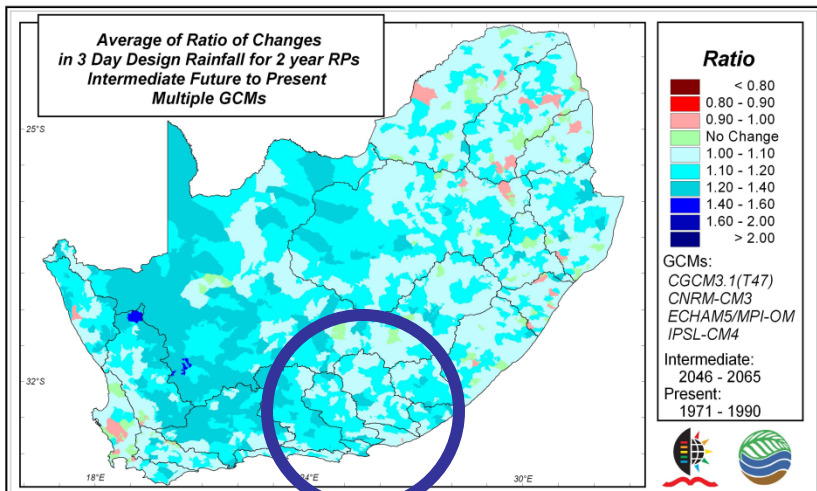
Present-Day 3 Day Rain, 2 Year RP



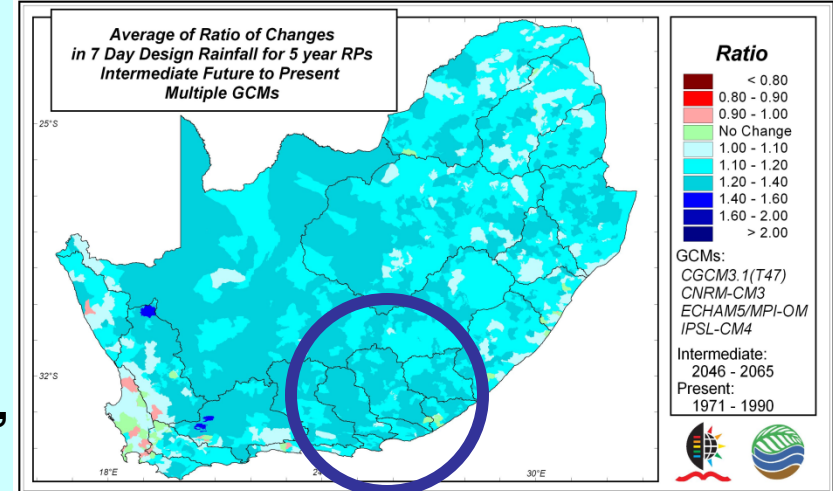
Present-Day 7 Day Rain, 5 Year RP



$\Delta$  in 3 Day, 2 Year RP Rain

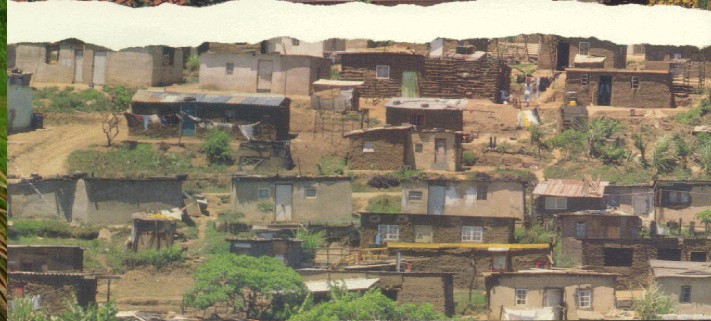


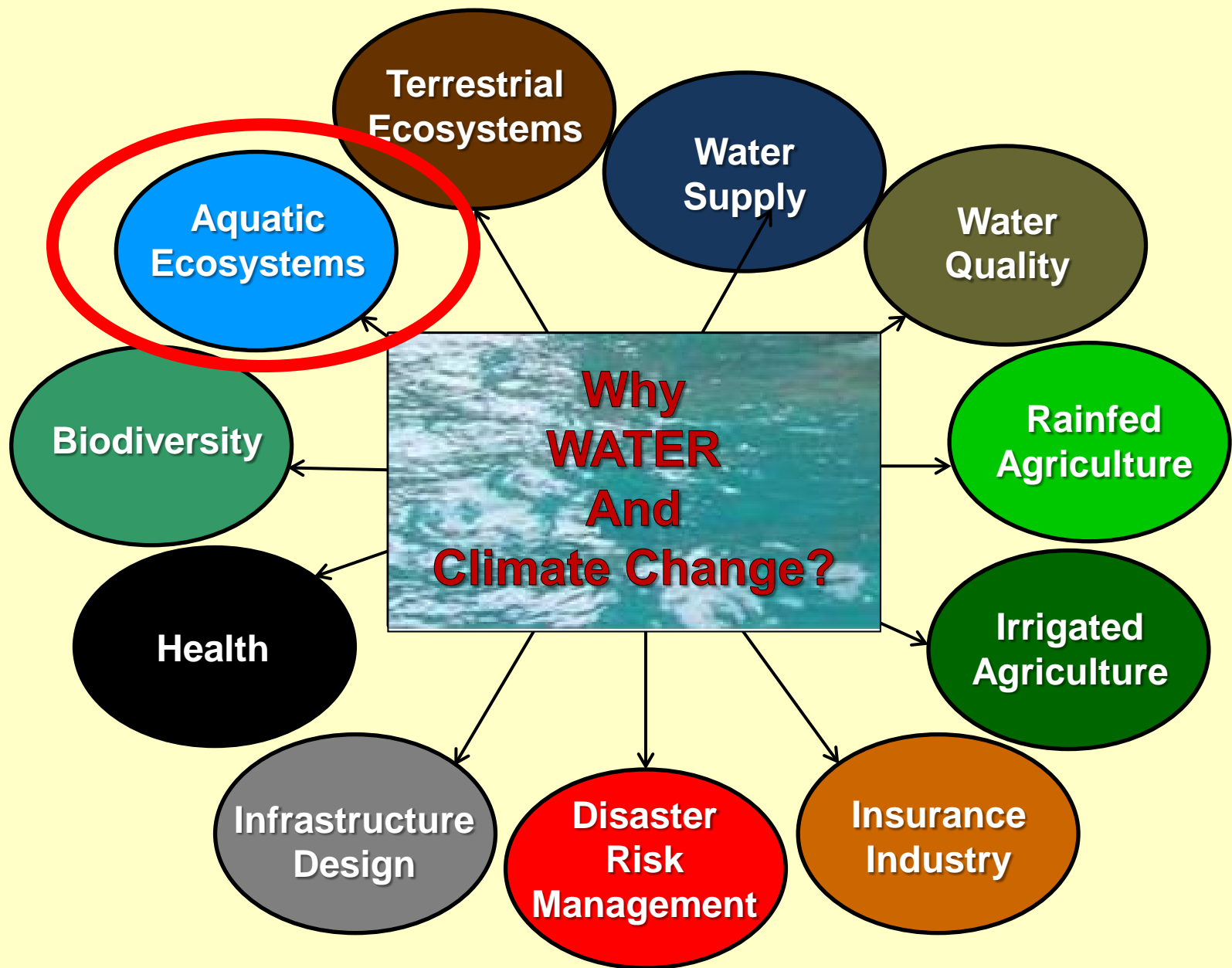
$\Delta$  in 7 Day, 5 Year RP Rain



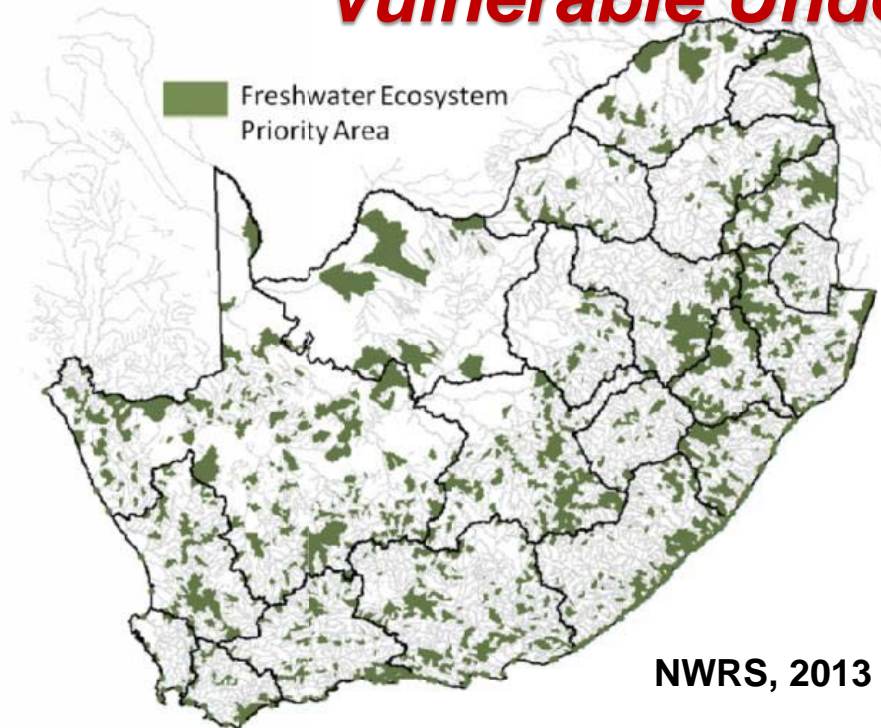
Schulze,  
2012

# ***Remember: Developing Countries Contain Many Vulnerable Poor Urban and Rural Communities Whose CC Adaptive Capacity is Often Low and Whose Adaptation Needs are Highly Local***

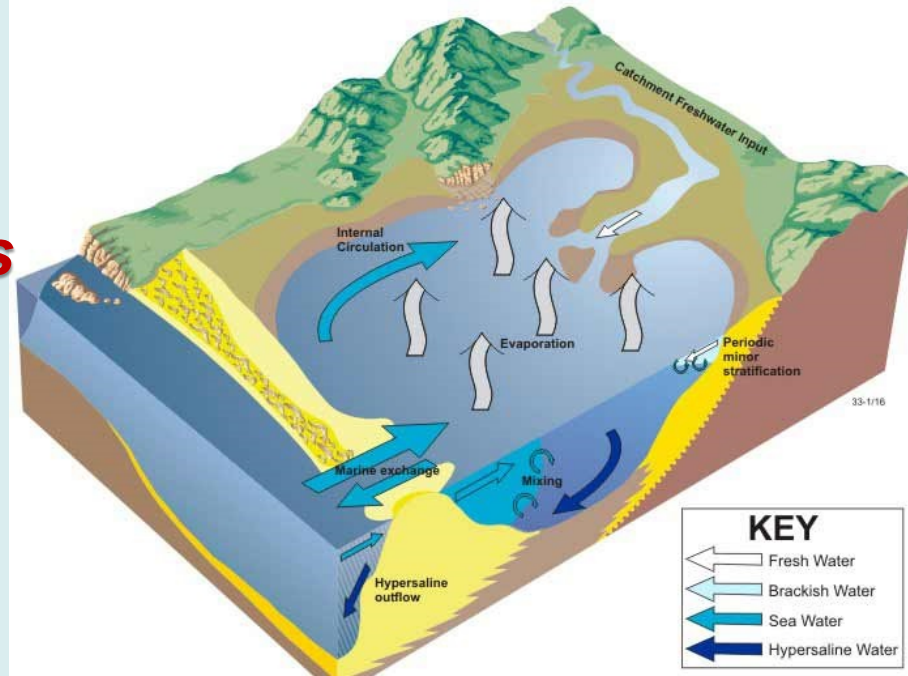


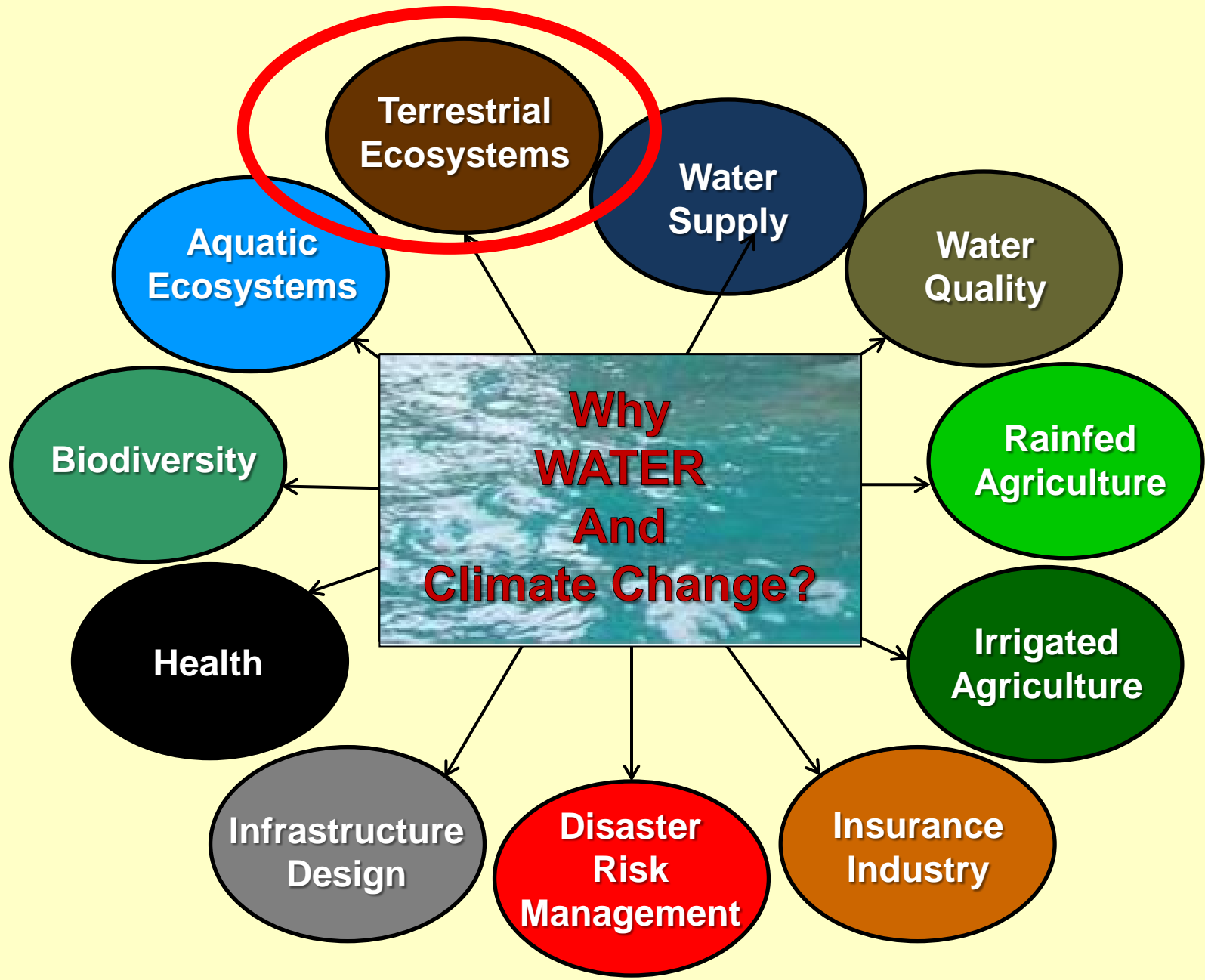


# Many Already Fragile Aquatic Ecosystems (e.g. estuaries, wetlands) May Become Even More Vulnerable Under Future Climates



**Ecological & Economic Impacts on Estuaries, e.g.** Increased hypersalinity, Changes in habitat availability for certain species, Impacts upon juvenile fish species, and Impacts upon the livelihoods of people reliant on this system.





**Terrestrial Ecosystems**

**Water Supply**

**Water Quality**

**Aquatic Ecosystems**

**Rainfed Agriculture**

**Biodiversity**

**Irrigated Agriculture**

**Health**

**Insurance Industry**

**Infrastructure Design**

**Disaster Risk Management**



# *Hydrological Impacts of Farming Practices are Likely to be Exacerbated by Climate Change*



# **FACT !! Our Natural Capital is Often Degraded by Alien Invasive Infestations**

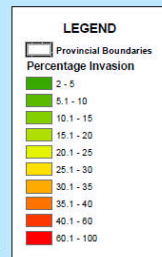
**That Prime Land Could be Producing Water and Food**

## **Percentage Invasion by 30 Well Established Alien Invasive Plants**

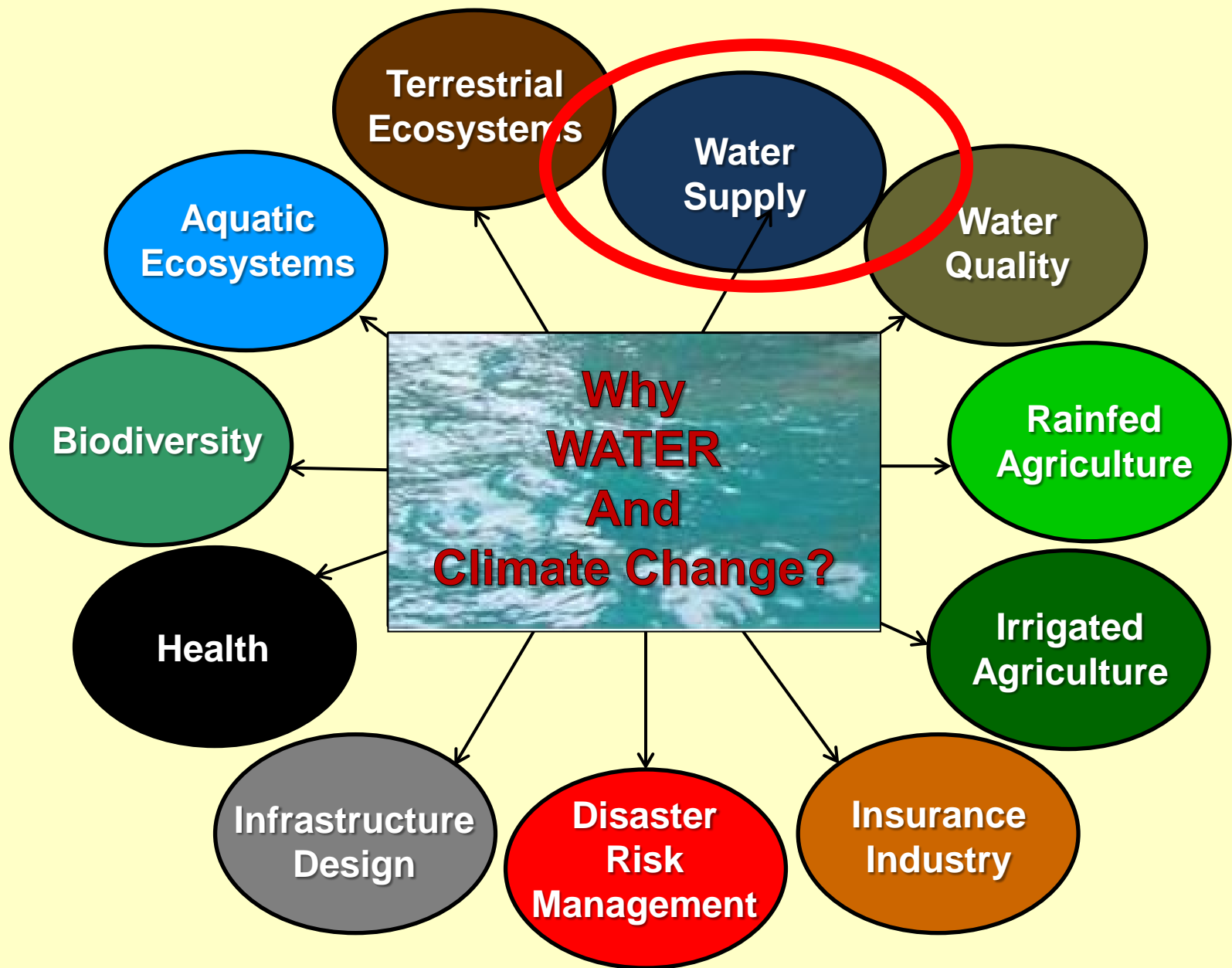
**Now > 660 invasive alien plants in SA, 106 new alien invasives in past 5 years**

**Kotze et al., 2010**

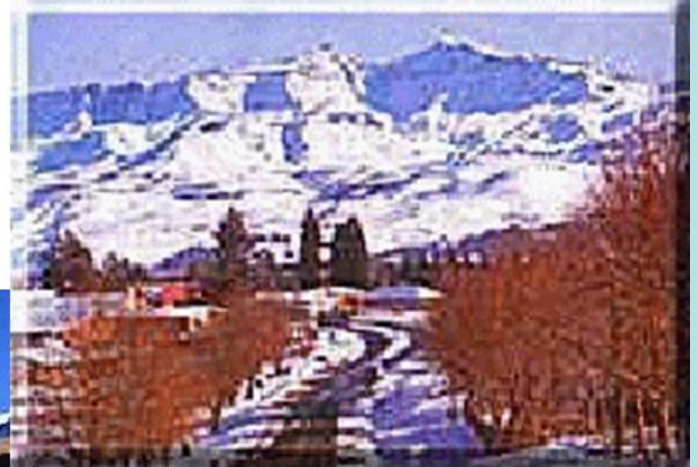
0 50 100 200 300 400 Kilometers



**With their High Water Demands Likely to be Exacerbated by Climate Change**



# We Often Are Dependent on Mountain Regions for our Water Resources and We do Not Understand the Climate Change Dynamics in Mountain Terrain



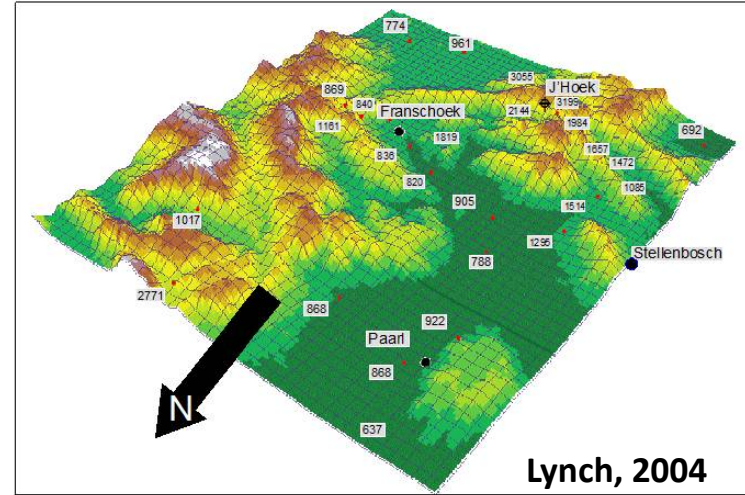
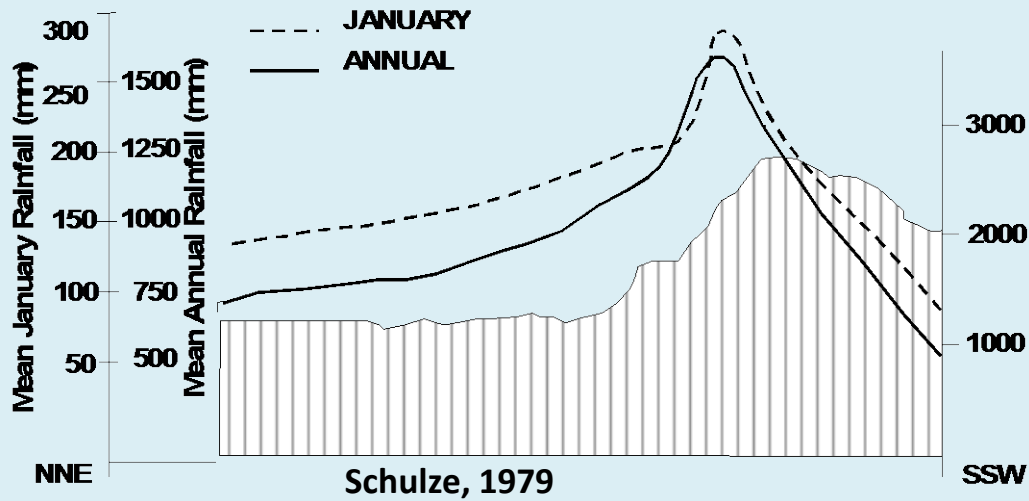
**Mountains... Our Water Towers**



Phase 1 of Lesotho Highlands Water Project

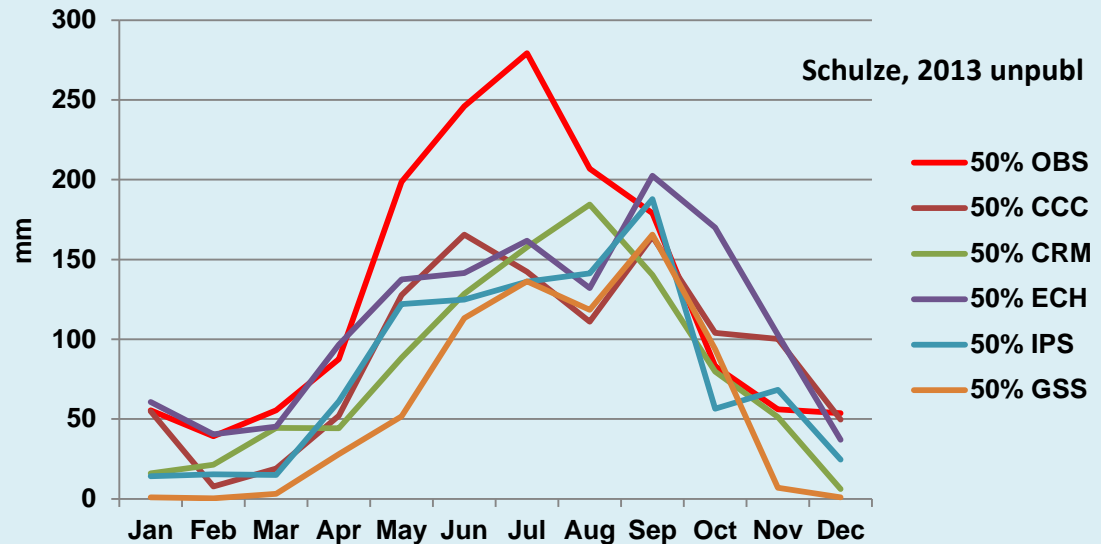


Source: Orange  
BAR, 2004



**But, Rainfall : Altitude Relationships are Complex in Mountain Regions**

Headwaters G10A1  
 Median Monthly Rainfall



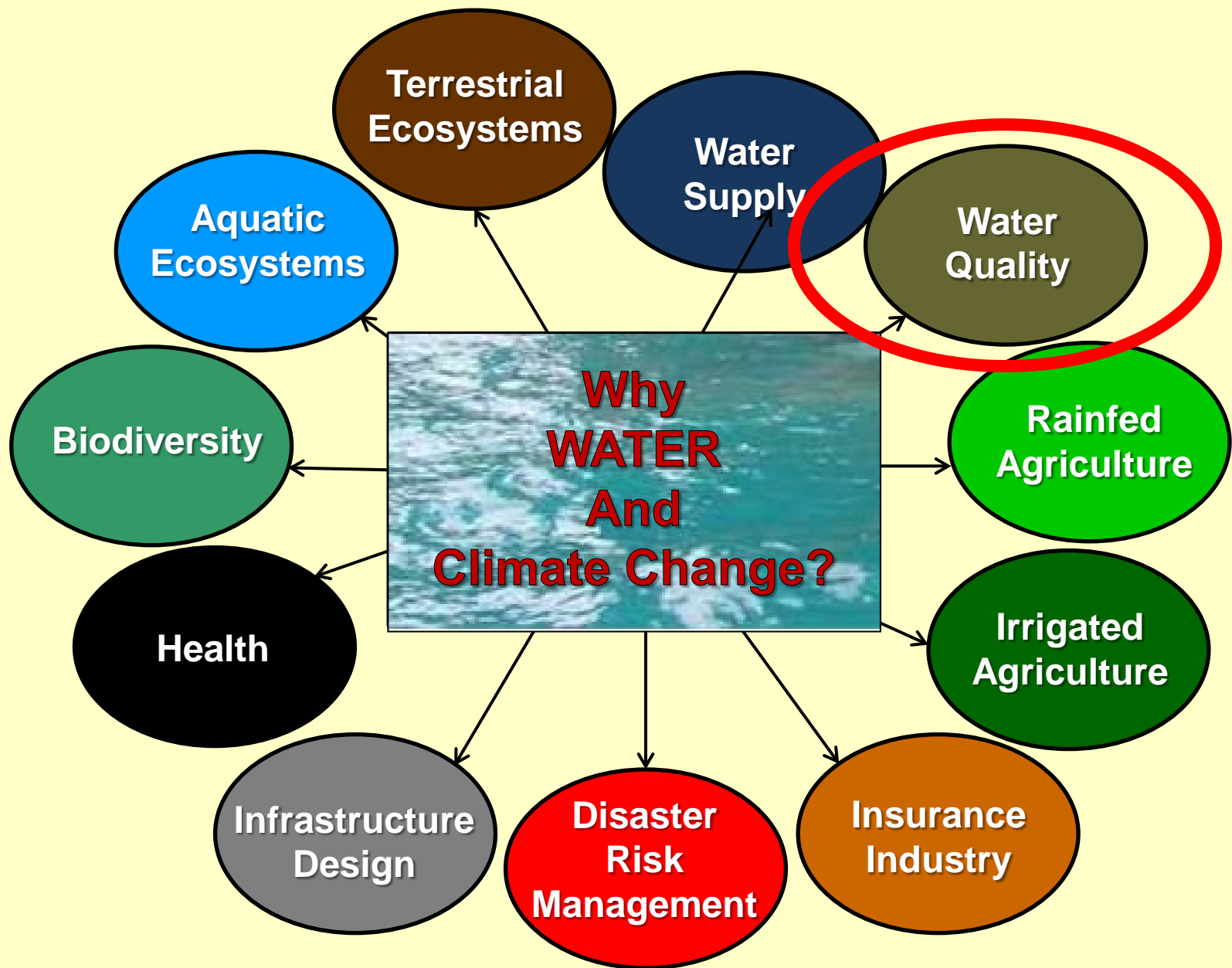
**And GCMs do not Always Capture Headwater Rainfall Magnitudes, Peaks**

***Thus, setting up long term high altitude weather stations in developing countries is critical and timely, even if late in the day***

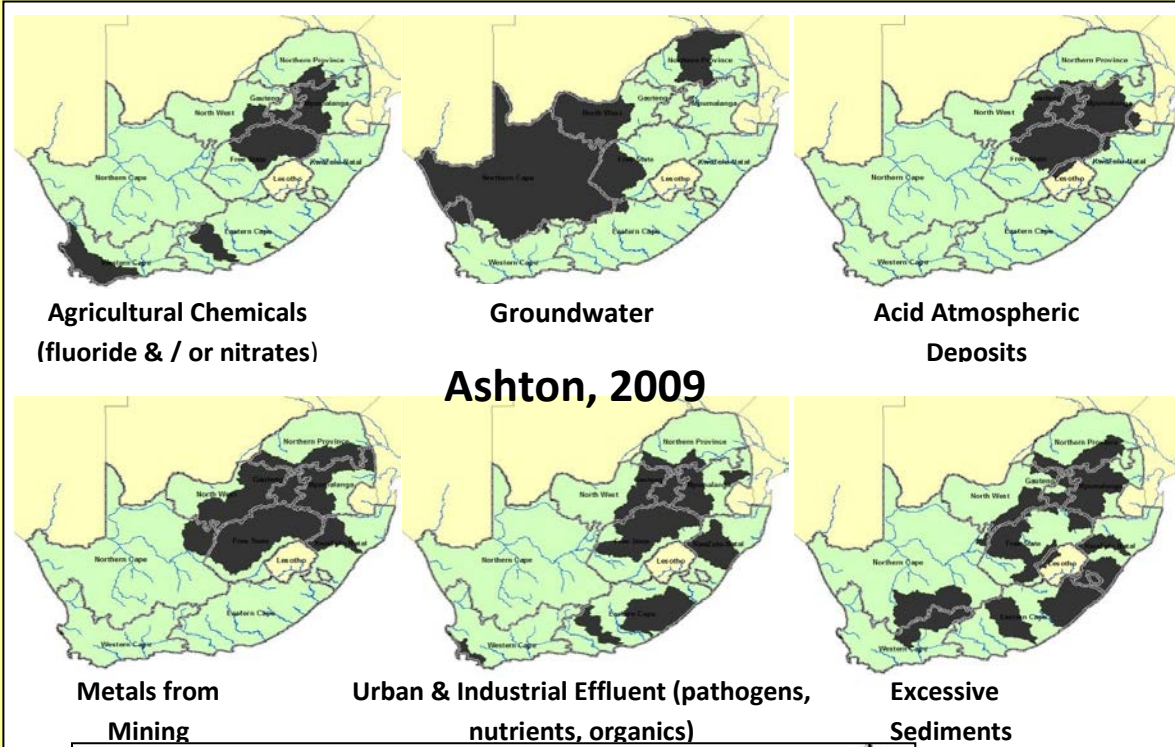
Photos: S van Rensburg



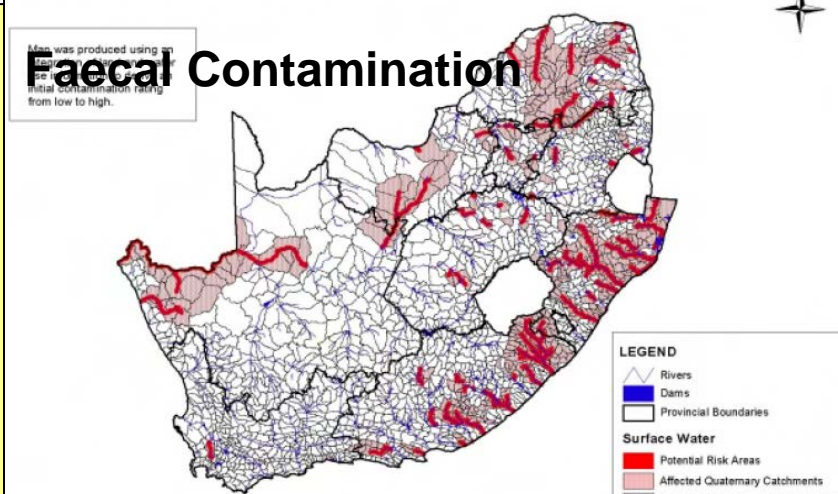
***A SAEON – Univ. of KwaZulu-Natal Initiative, Cathedral Peak, 2012***



# There are Many Causes of Poor Water Quality in SA; CC is Likely to Amplify Water Quality Impacts

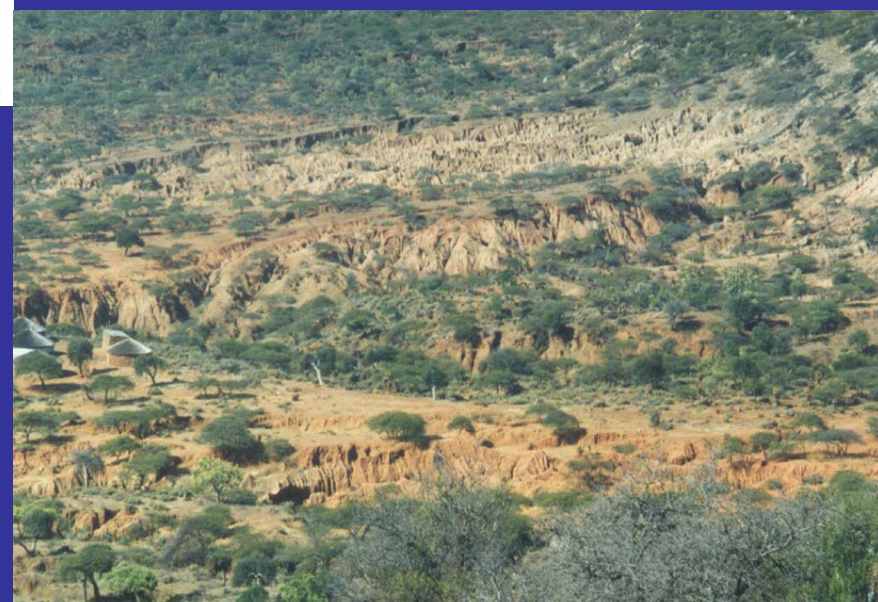
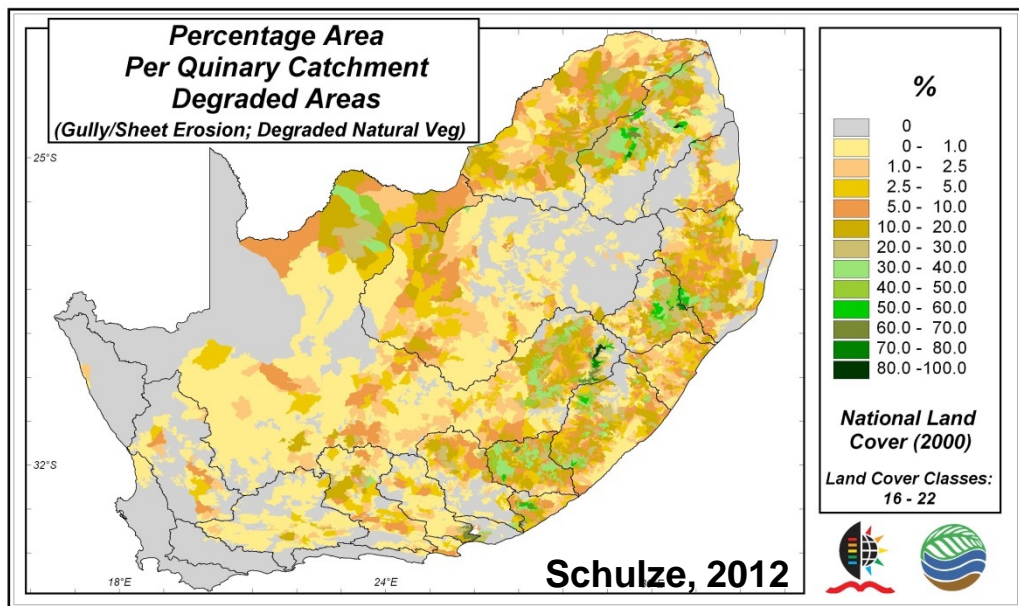


*Acid Mine Drainage*

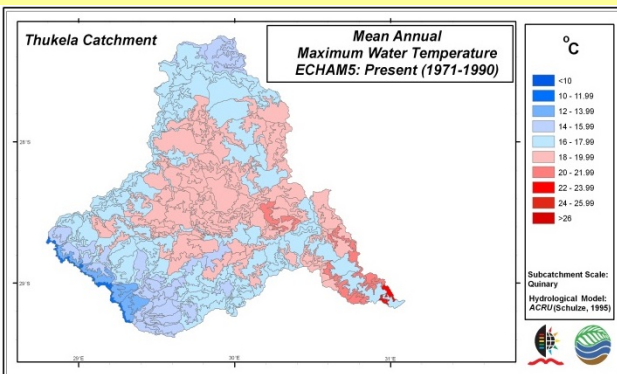




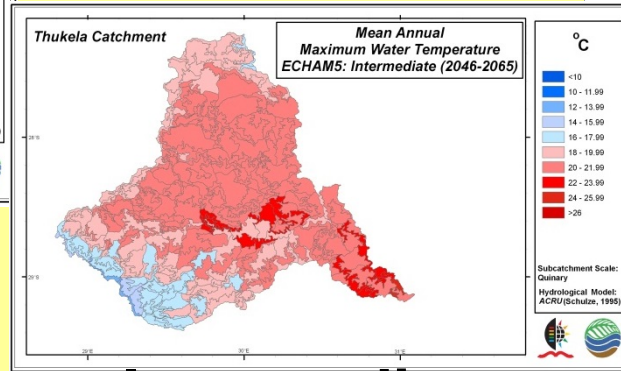
# Large Tracts of Developing Countries are Degraded, with Effects of Degradation Likely to be Exacerbated by CC



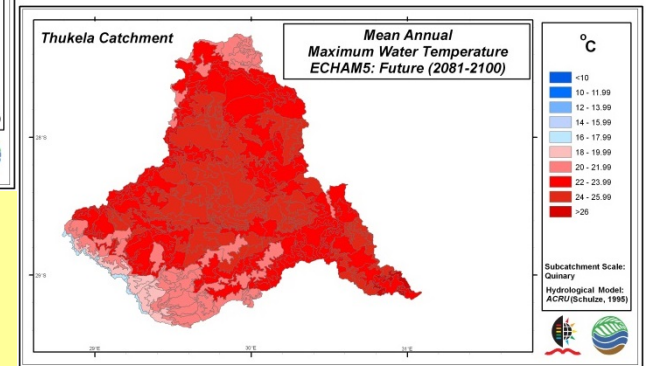
# Water Temperatures are Projected to Increase Significantly with CC, with Health, Power Cooling & Aquatic Environmental Consequences



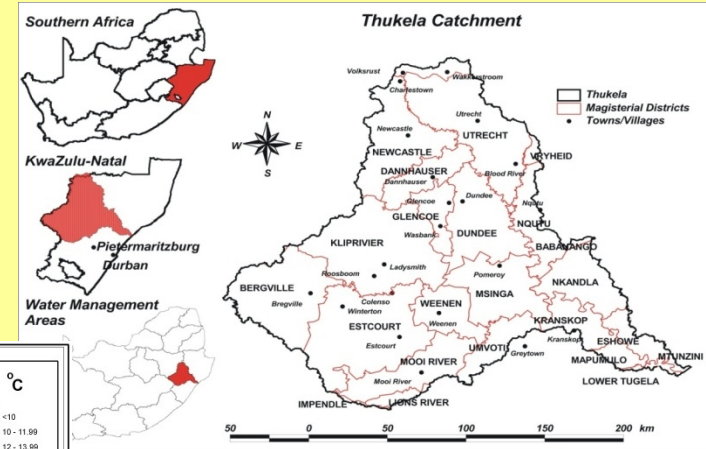
**Present  
1971 - 1990**

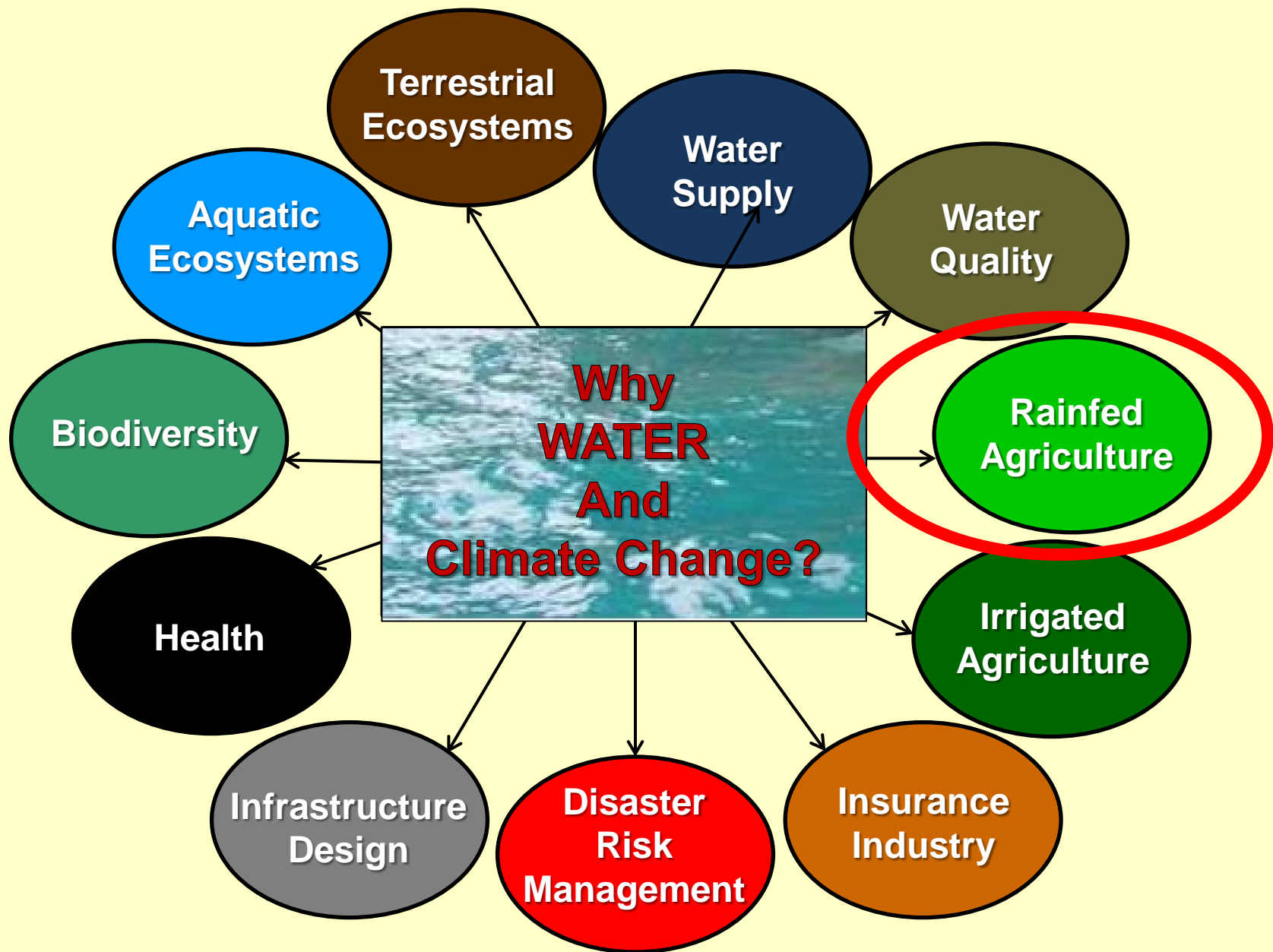


**Intermediate  
Future  
2046 - 2065**



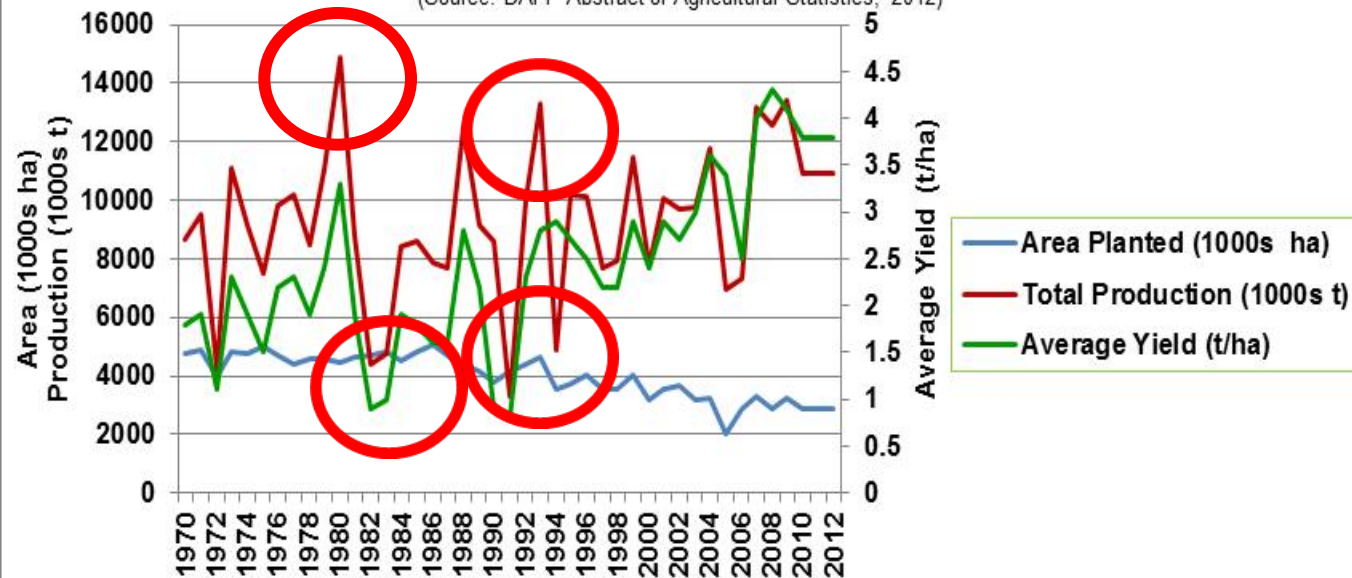
**More Distant  
Future  
2081 - 2100**





## Maize: Area Planted, Total Production and Yield

(Source: DAFF Abstract of Agricultural Statistics, 2012)

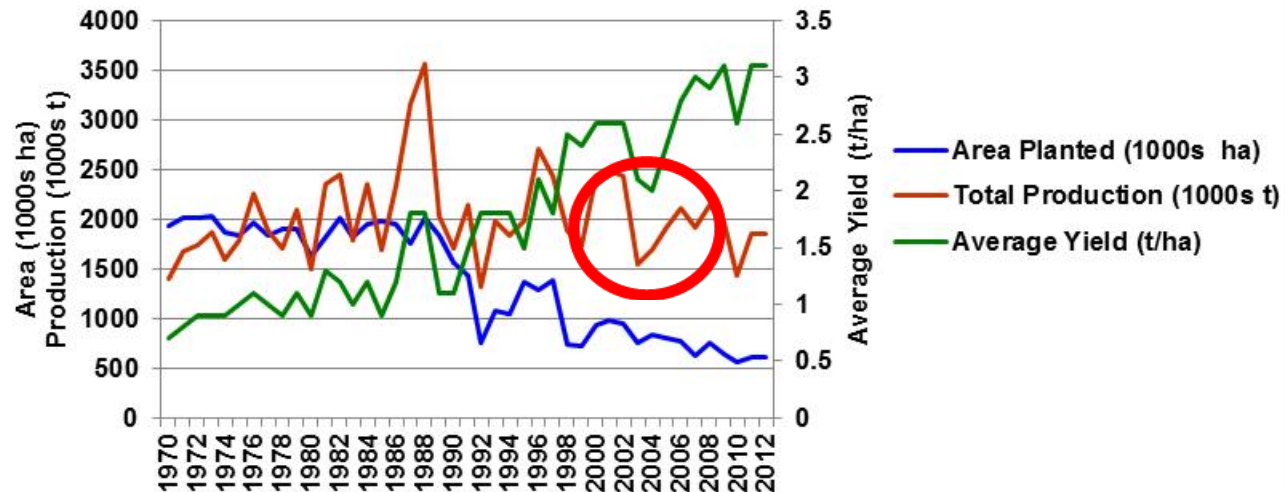


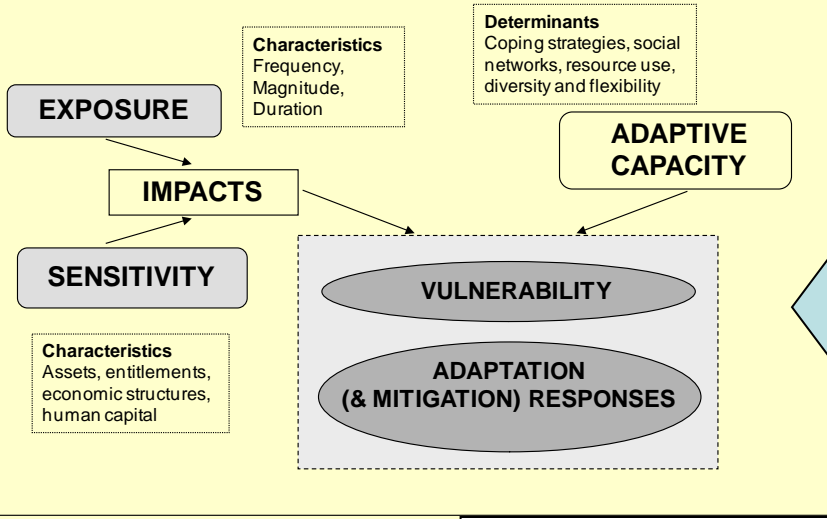
**FACT !!**  
**The climate dependence of yields in SA is undisputed**

**But, total production is up while area planted is down**

## Wheat: Area Planted, Total Production and Yield

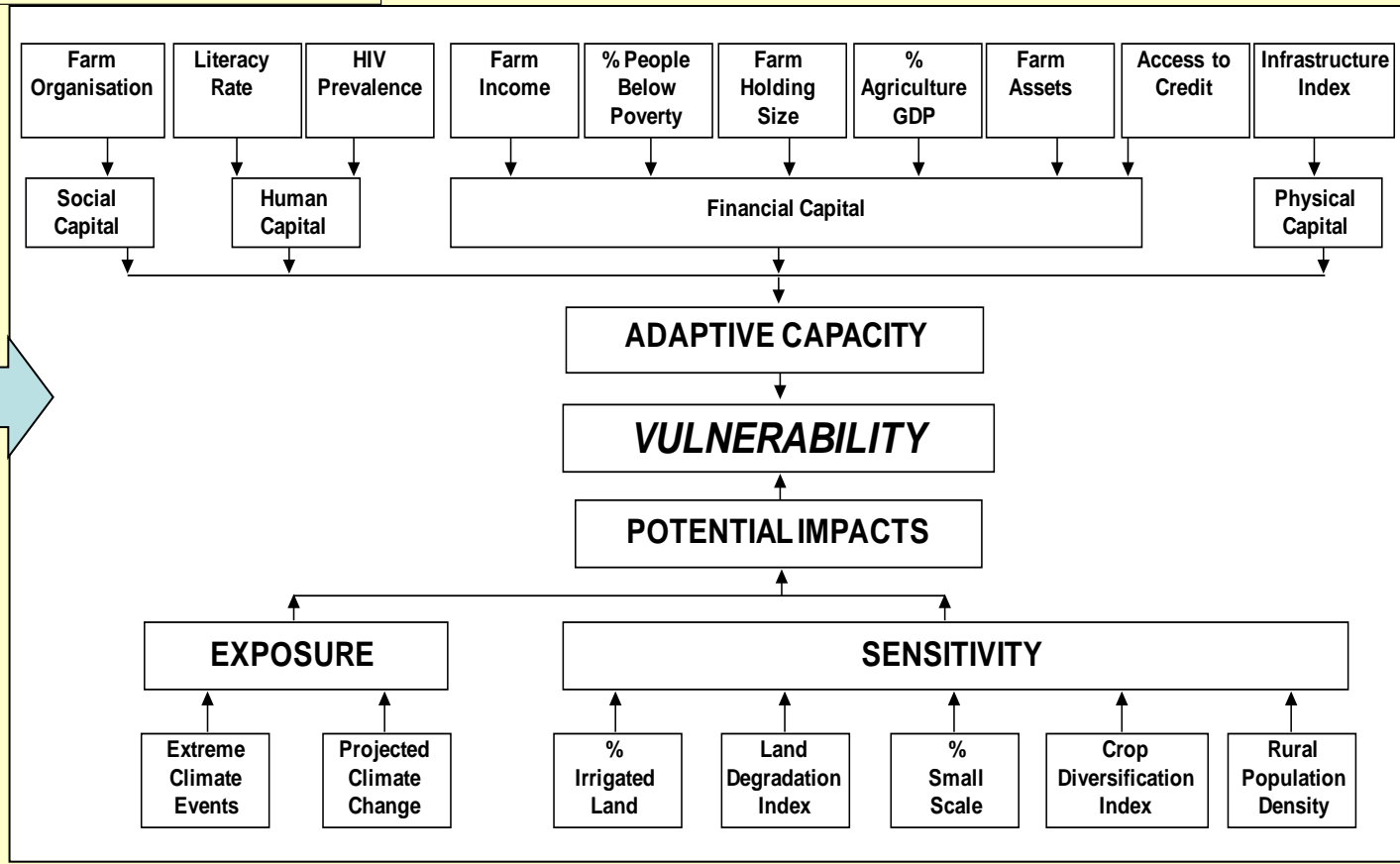
(Source: DAFF Abstract of Agricultural Statistics, 2012)





# Food & Water Security are Linked to the Vulnerability - Impacts - Adaptation Framework

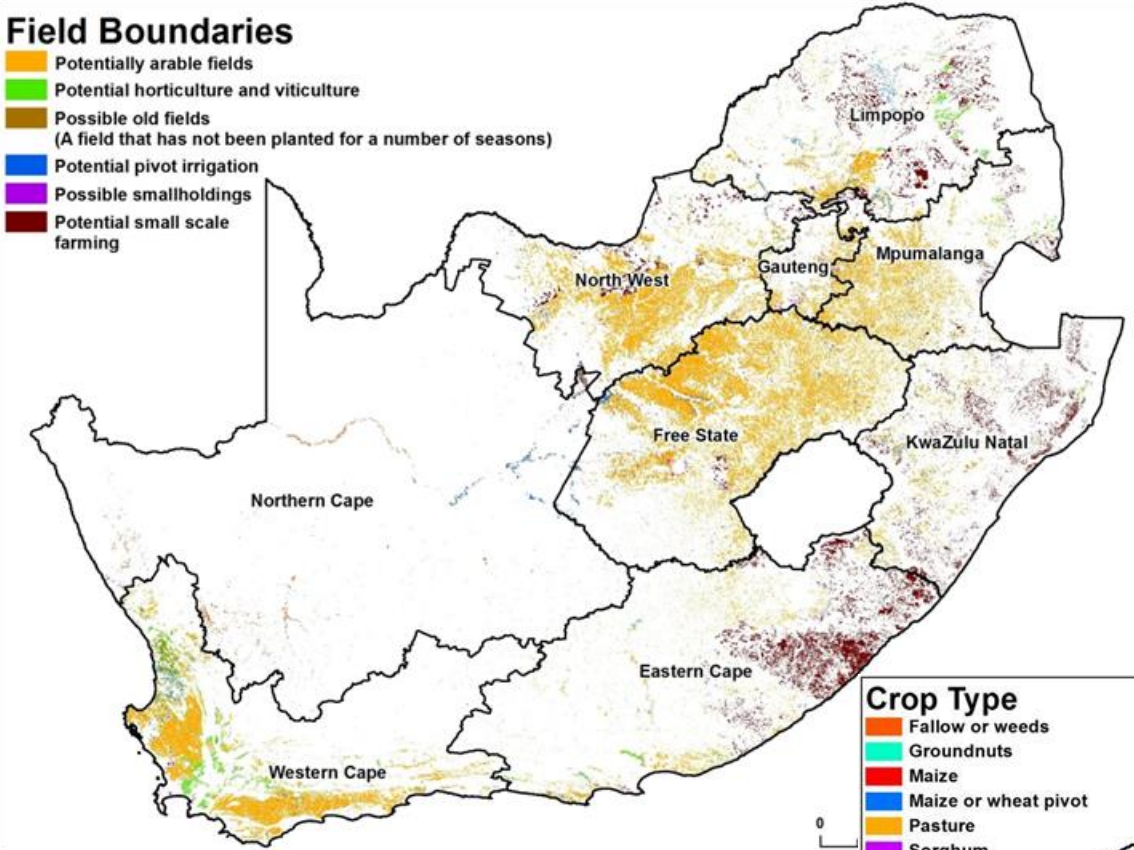
## V-I-A Links and Indicators



# The Case of Maize in SA

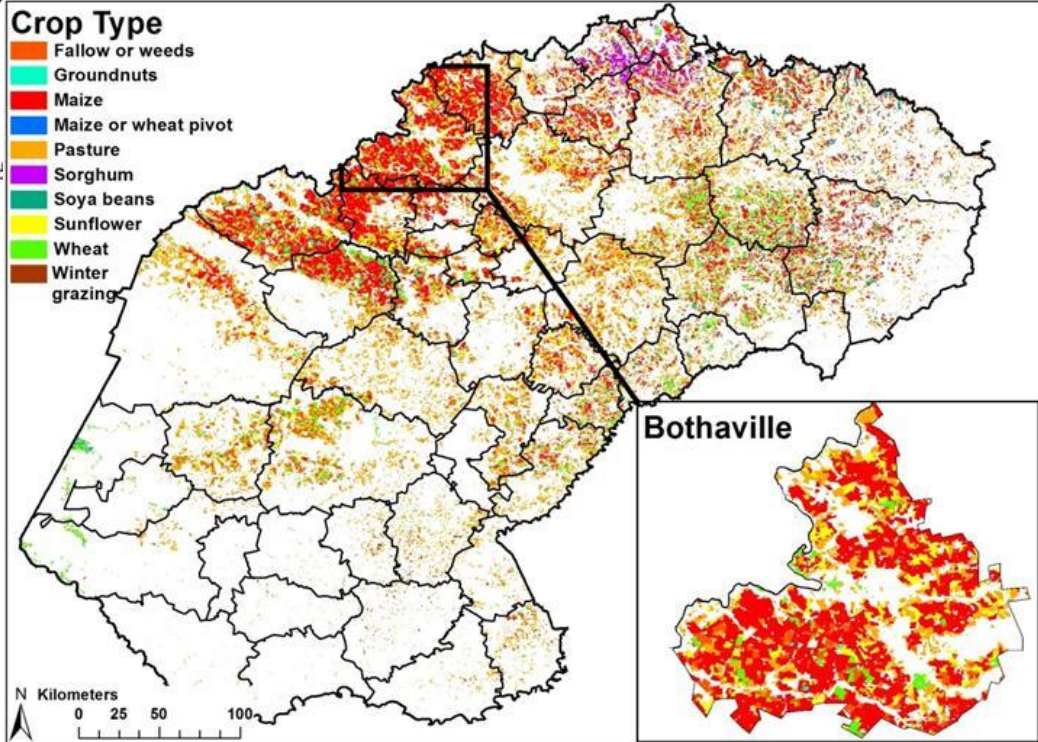
## Field Boundaries

- Potentially arable fields
- Potential horticulture and viticulture
- Possible old fields (A field that has not been planted for a number of seasons)
- Potential pivot irrigation
- Possible smallholdings
- Potential small scale farming

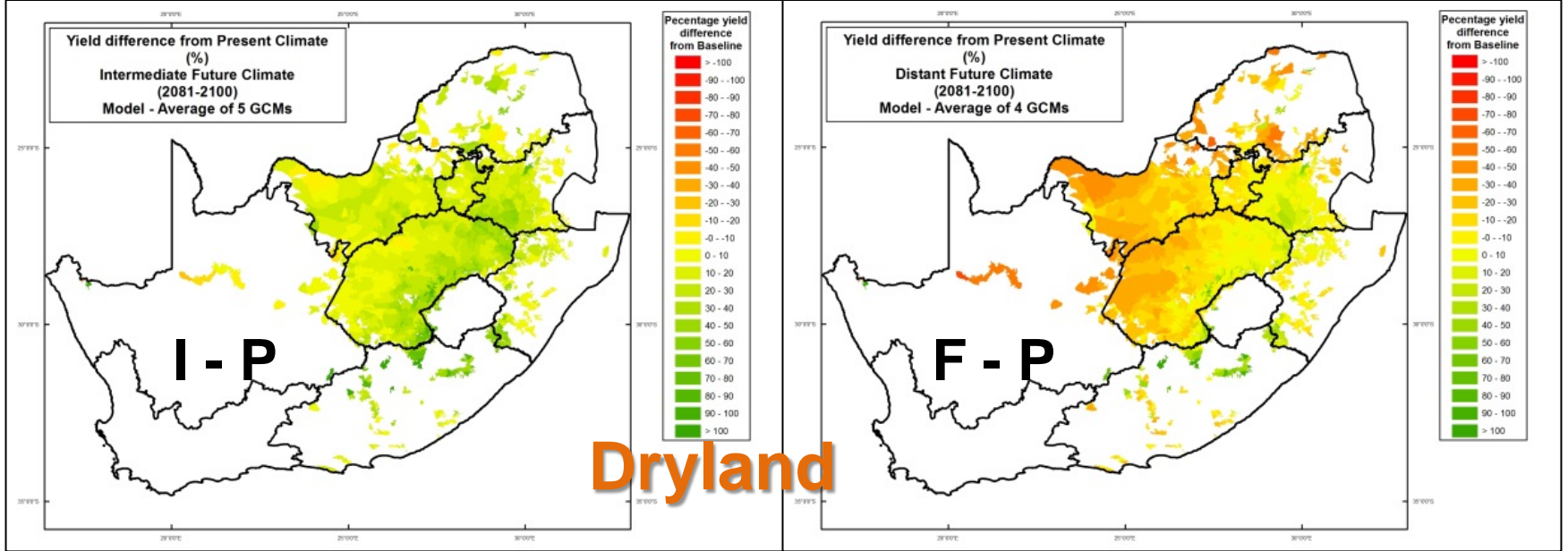


## Crop Type

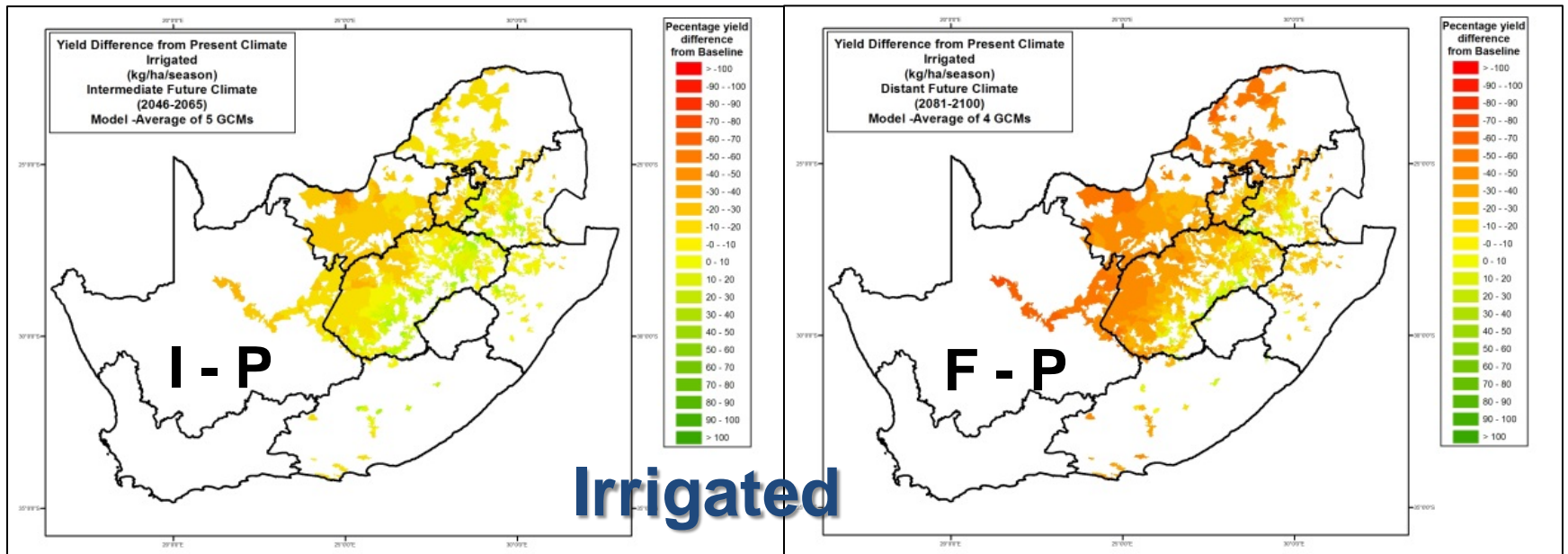
- Fallow or weeds
- Groundnuts
- Maize
- Maize or wheat pivot
- Pasture
- Sorghum
- Soya beans
- Sunflower
- Wheat
- Winter grazing



**Study of 130 000  
maize fields over SA,  
each with unique  
soils & climate  
Durand & Schulze, 2014**



## *Yield Differences into the Future*





***Or, with the subsistence  
farmer ...***



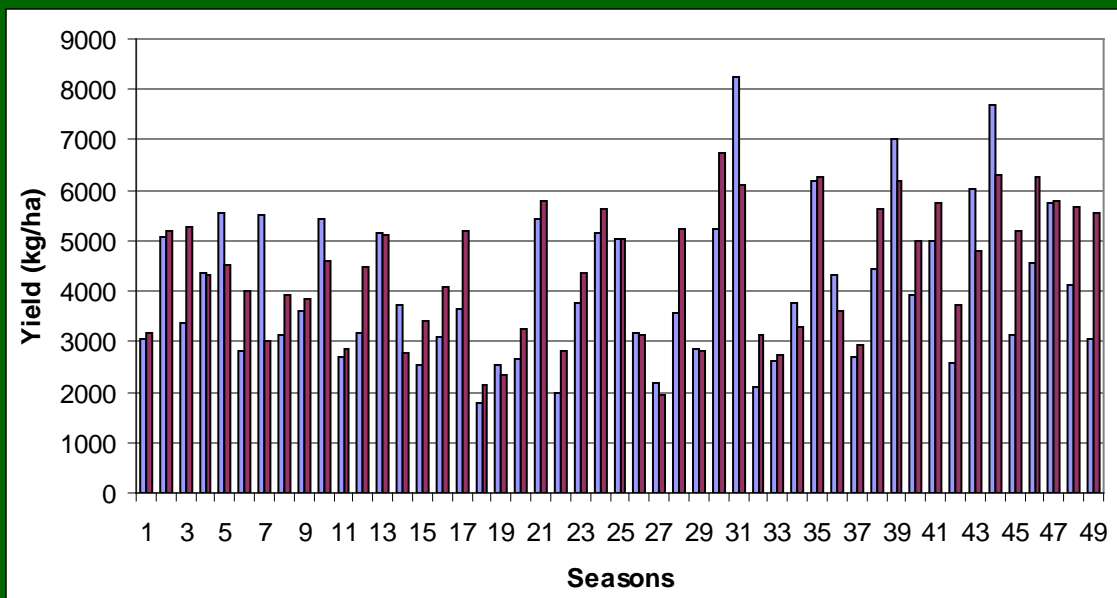
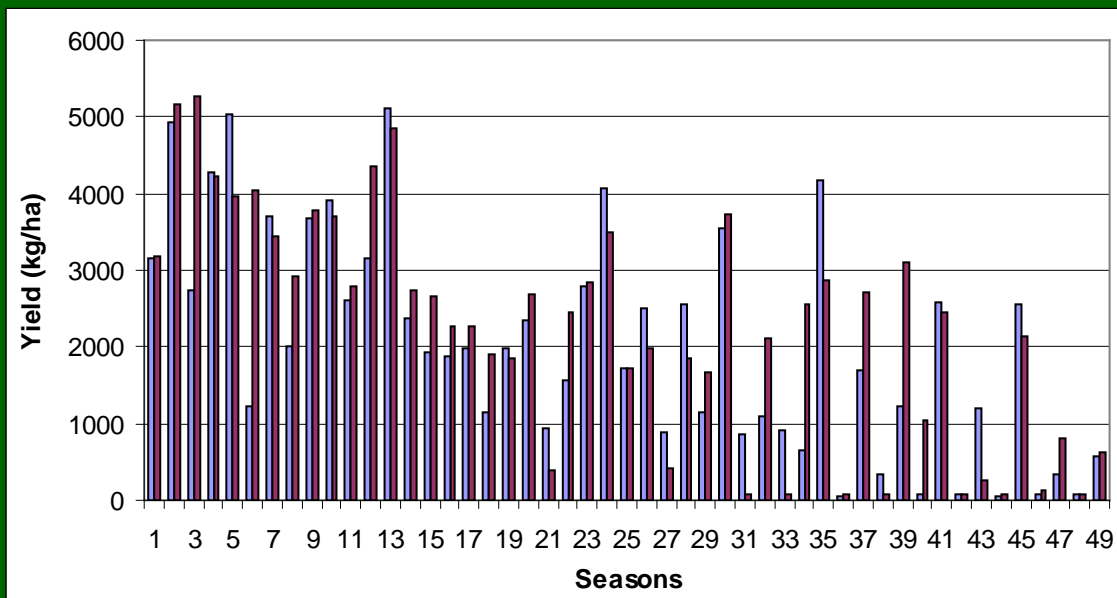
# What About the Influence of Climate Change on Maize Yields When Fertilizing with Manure vs. Inorganic Fertilizer

**Manure**  
**N ≡ 68 kg/ha**

**More Rapid  
Decomposition  
of Manure in  
Future**

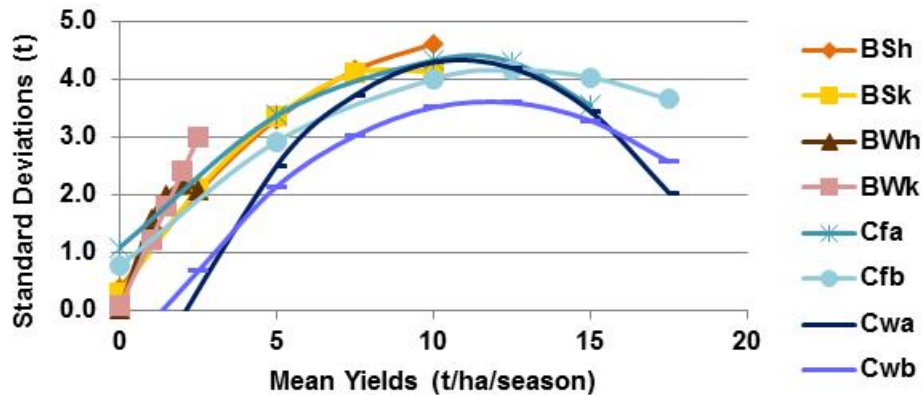
**Inorganic**  
**N ≡ 200 kg/ha**

**2XCO<sub>2</sub> + 2°C; Potshini KZN**  
**Walker & Schulze, 2008**



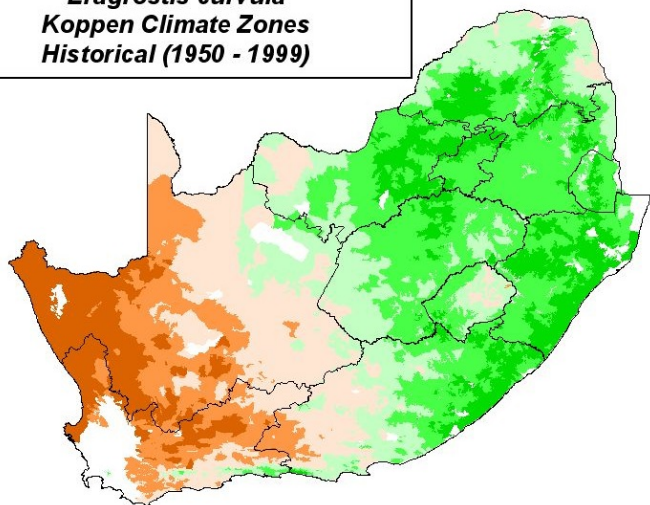
# Eragrostis curvula

## Standard Deviation: Yield Relationships Summary for All Relevant Köppen Zones



# Fodder Banking with Eragrostis curvula

**Minimum Fodder Bank Requirements  
Eragrostis curvula  
Köppen Climate Zones  
Historical (1950 - 1999)**



**t/ha**

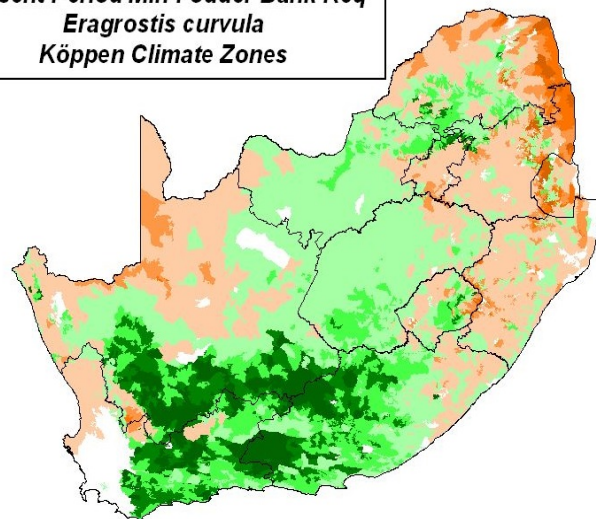
- < 0.5
- 0.5 - 1
- 1 - 2
- 2 - 3
- 3 - 4
- > 4

Köppen Climate Zone:  
Cwb, Cwa, Cfb, Cfa,  
BWk, BWh, BSk, BSh

Historical:  
1950 - 1999



**Ratio Difference between Int Fut and  
Present Period Min Fodder Bank Req  
Eragrostis curvula  
Köppen Climate Zones**



**Ratio**

- < 0.25
- 0.25 - 0.5
- 0.5 - 0.75
- 0.75 - 1
- 1
- 1 - 1.25
- 1.25 - 1.5
- 1.5 - 1.75
- > 1.75

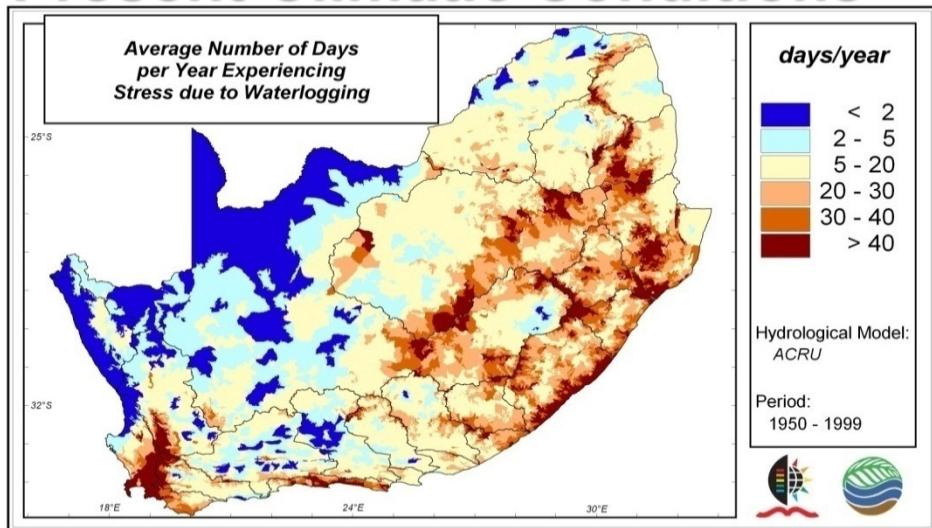
Köppen Climate Zone:  
BSh, BSk, BWh, BWk,  
Cfa, Cfb, Cwa, Cwb

GCM:  
CGCM3.1(T47)  
CNRM  
ECHAM5/MPI-OM  
IPSL-CM4

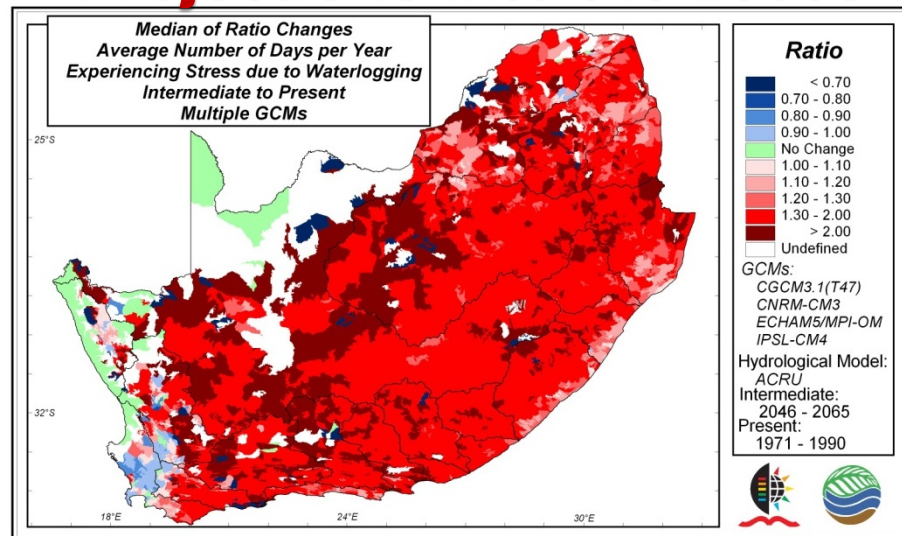


# Projected Changes in Days with Waterlogged Soils ... In-field Trafficability

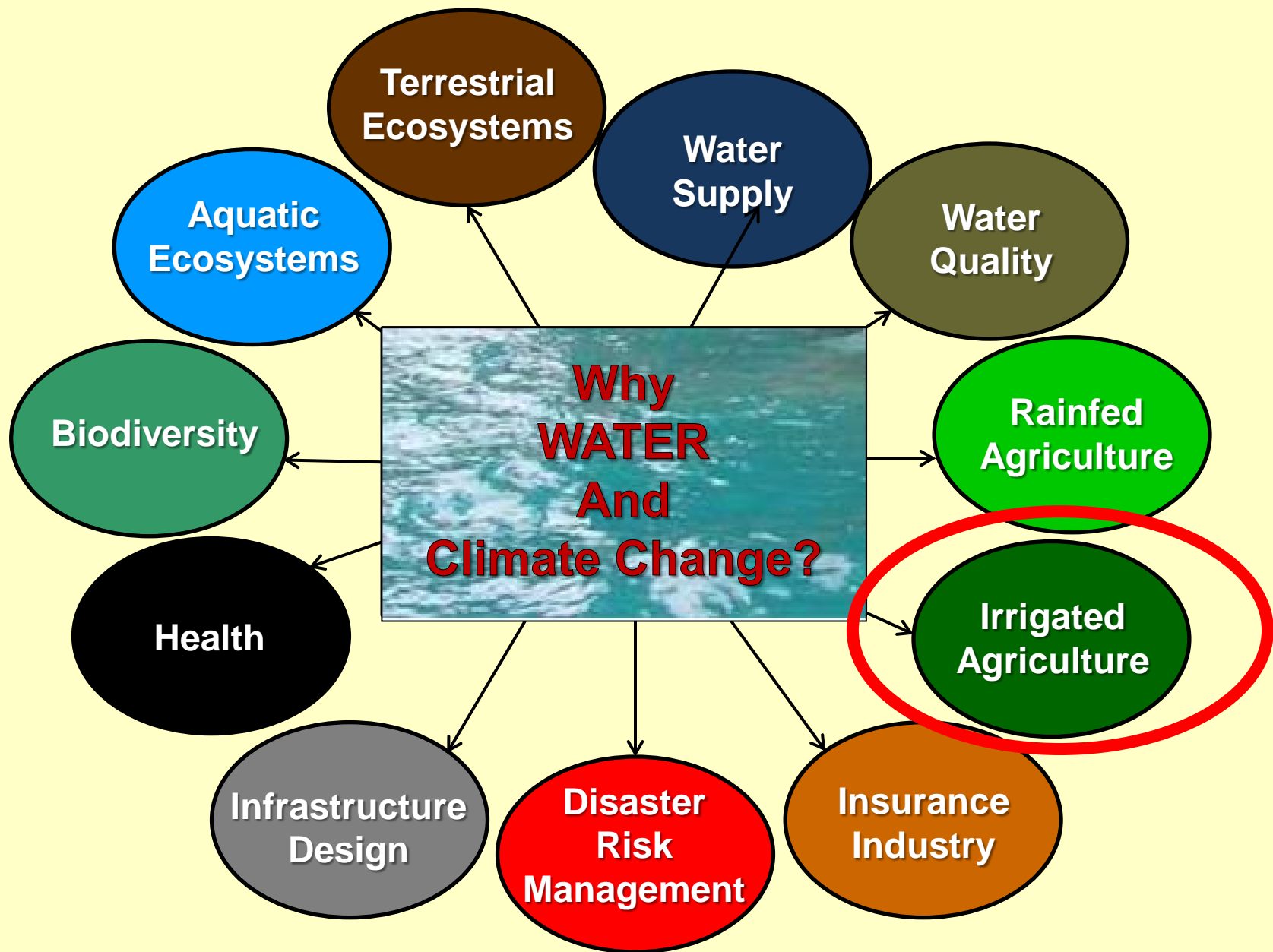
## Present Climatic Conditions



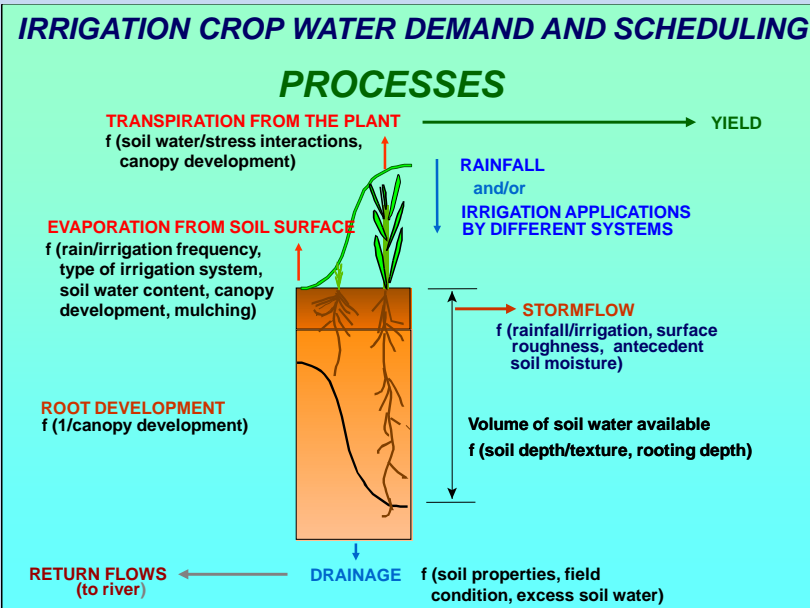
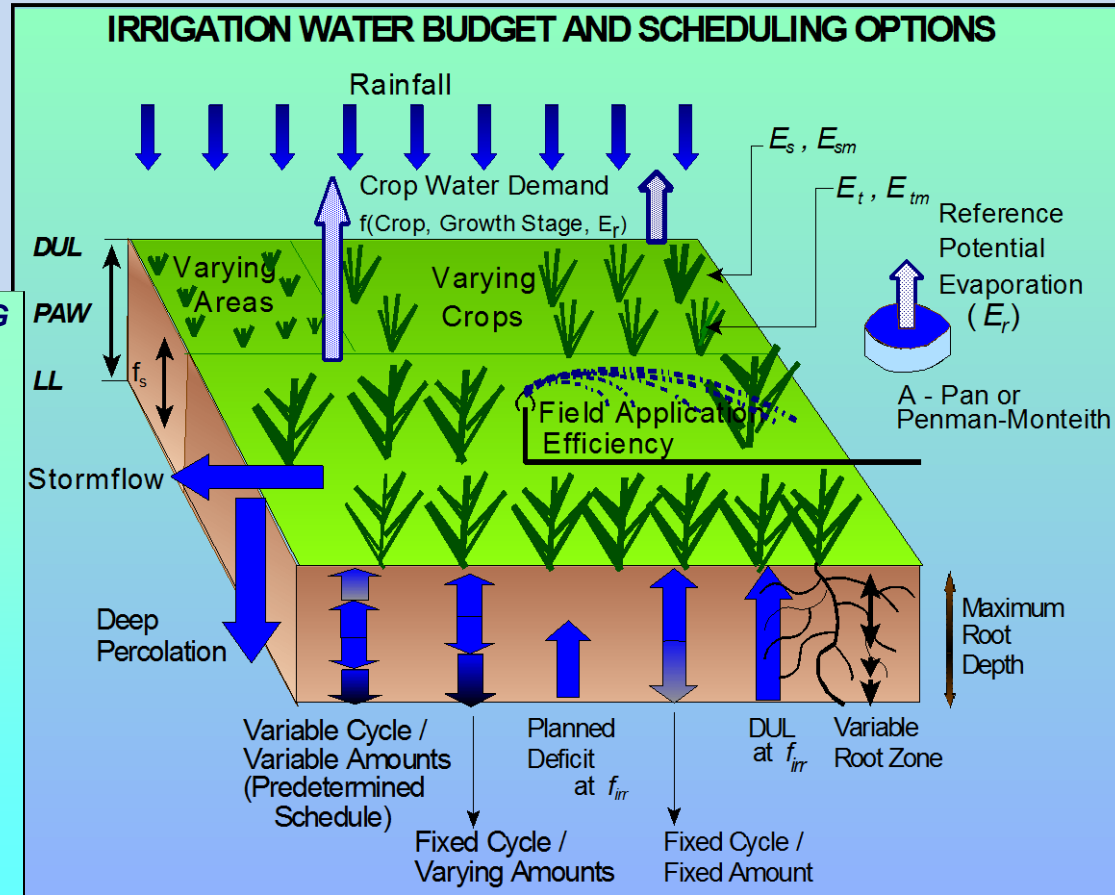
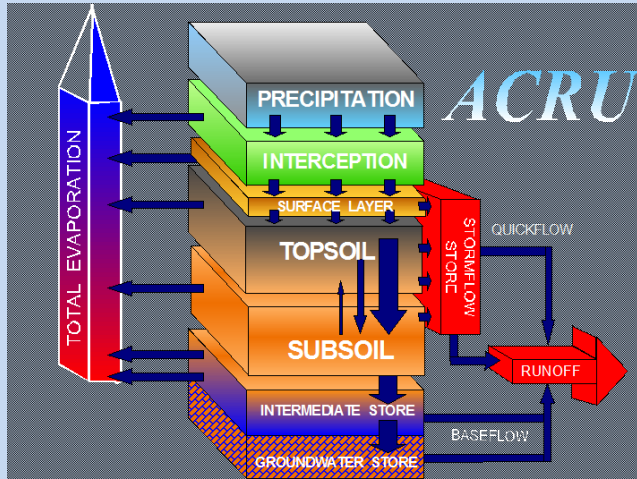
## Projections into the 2050s



**Impacts?**

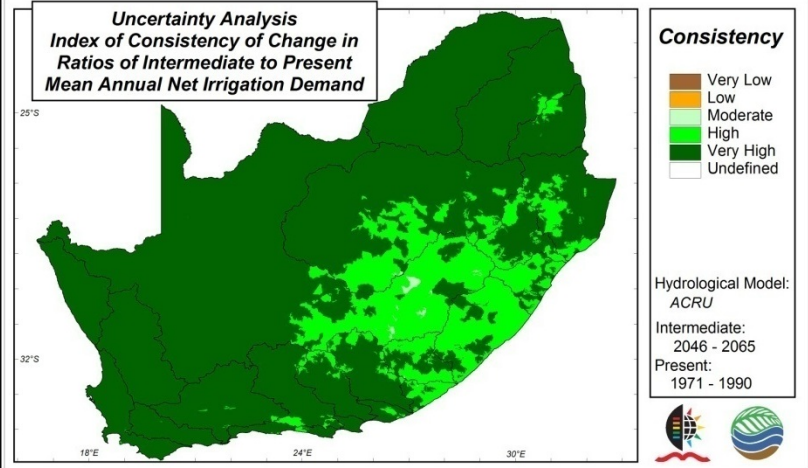
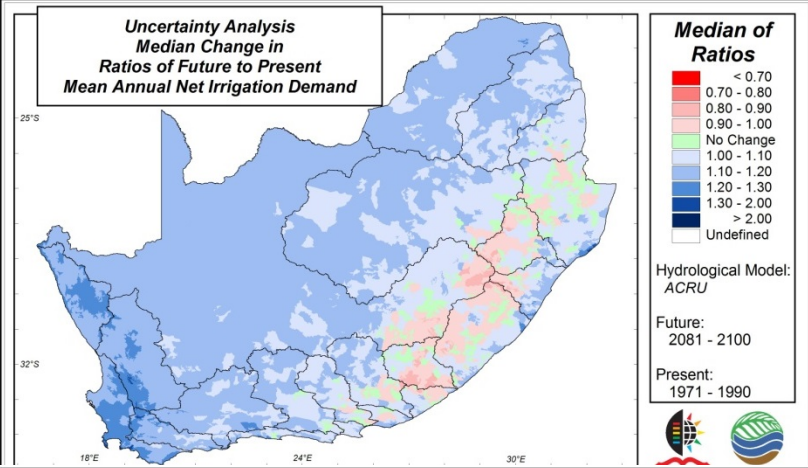
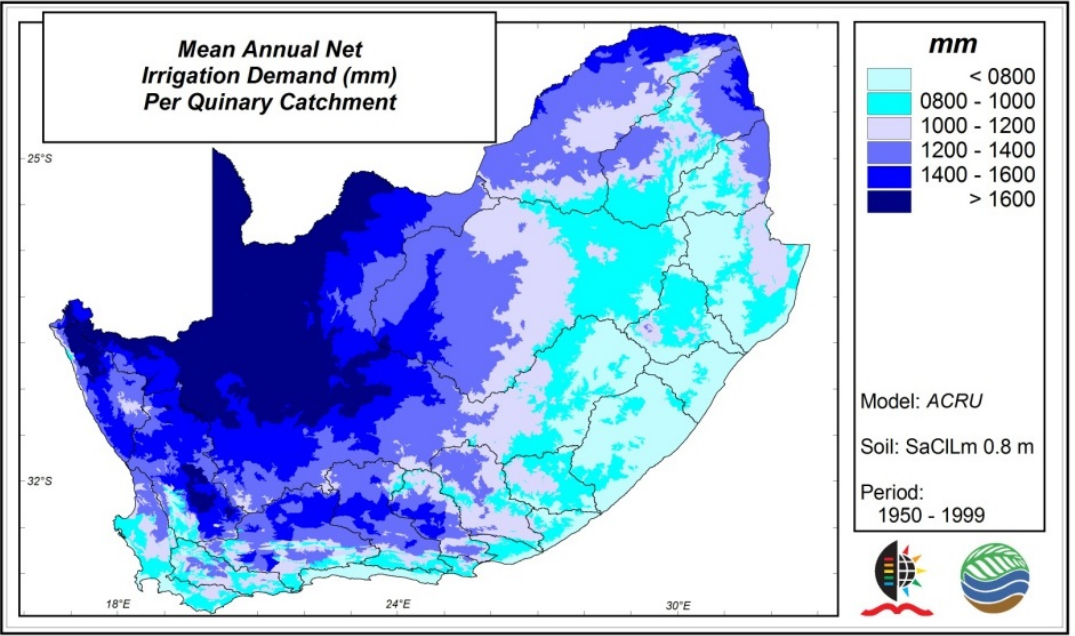
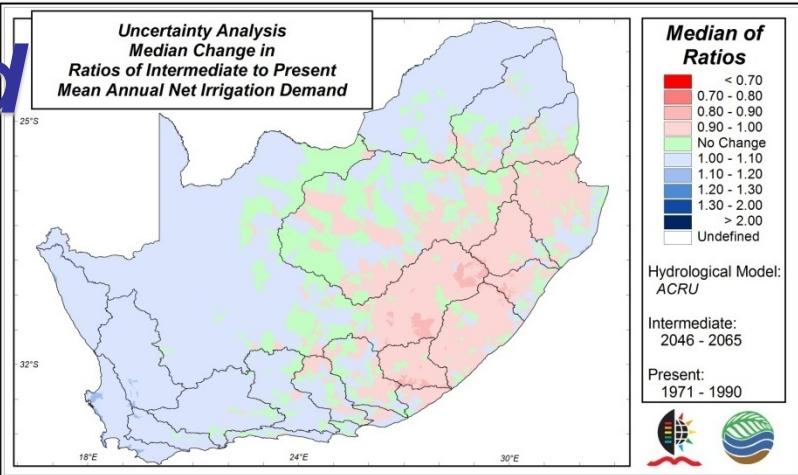


# How do we Assess the Irrigation Water Demand by Crops ?

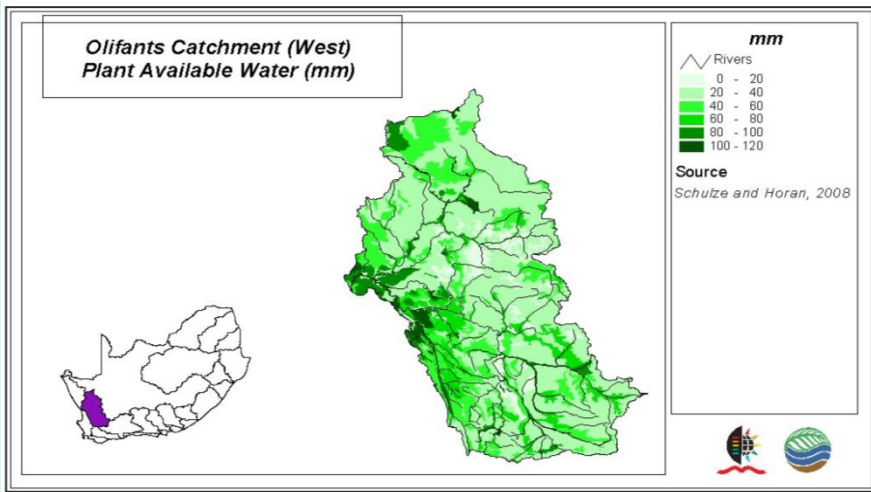


# Irrigation Water Demand

1. Present Demand
2. Future Projected Change
3. How Confident Are We?



**Winners and Losers (Schulze, 2011)**



# Assessing Real-World Problems: Irrigation in the Olifants-Doorn Catchment, W. Cape

## Irrigation in the Valleys of the Cedarberg Mountains



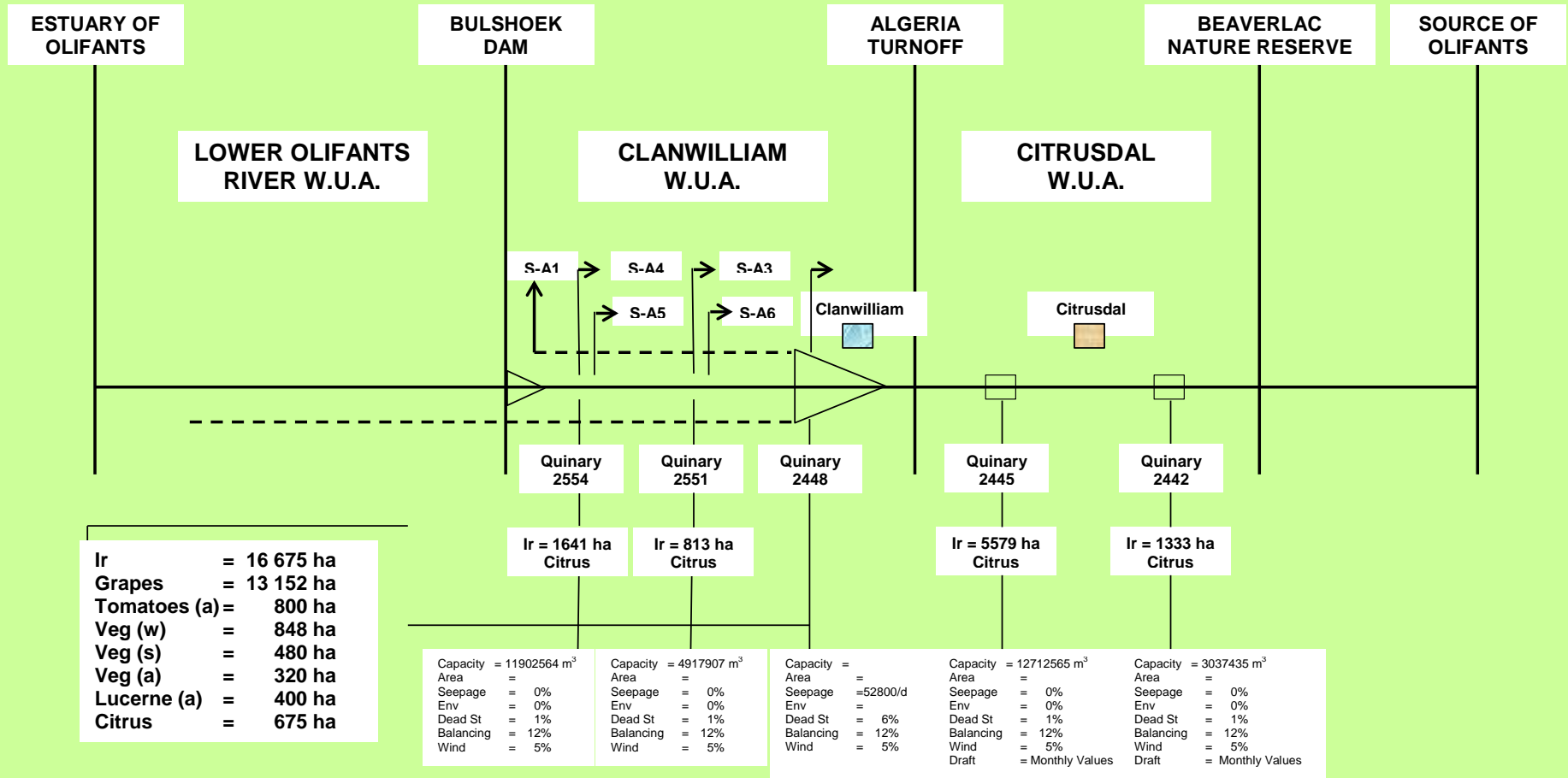


***This is what you see there***

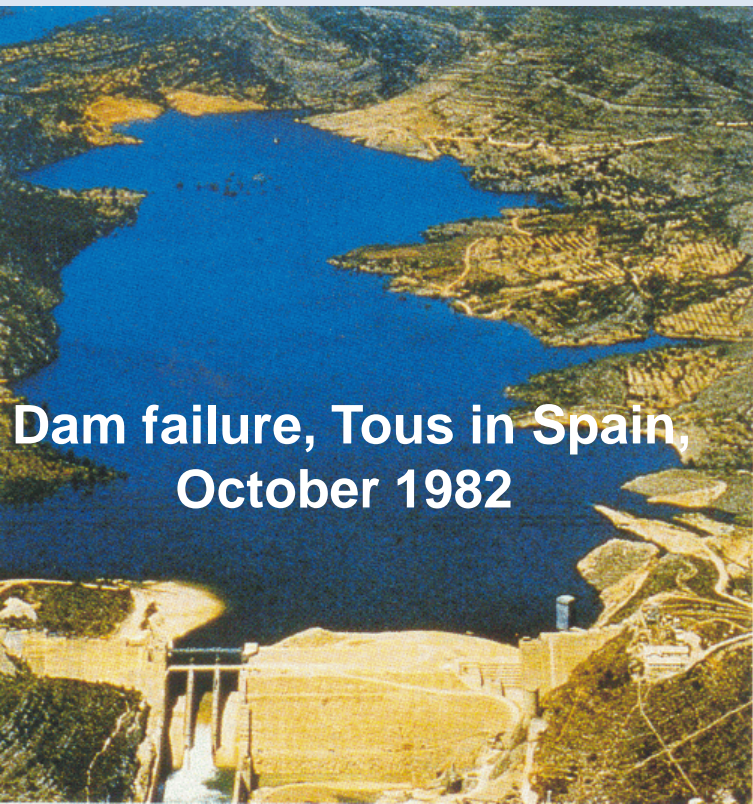




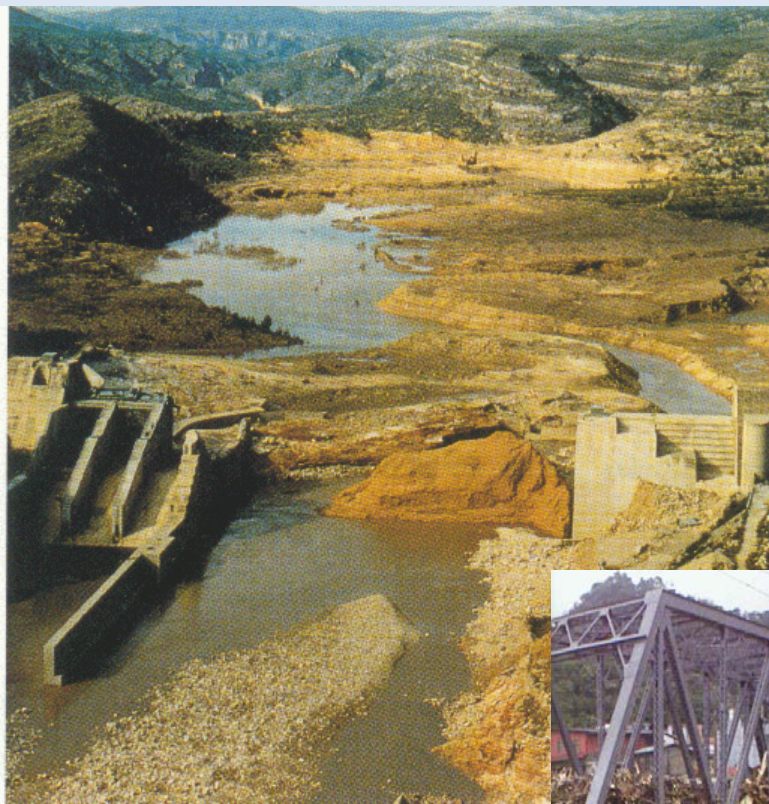
# This is What the Challenge is: Irrigation Efficiency & Dam Re-Sizing Decisions







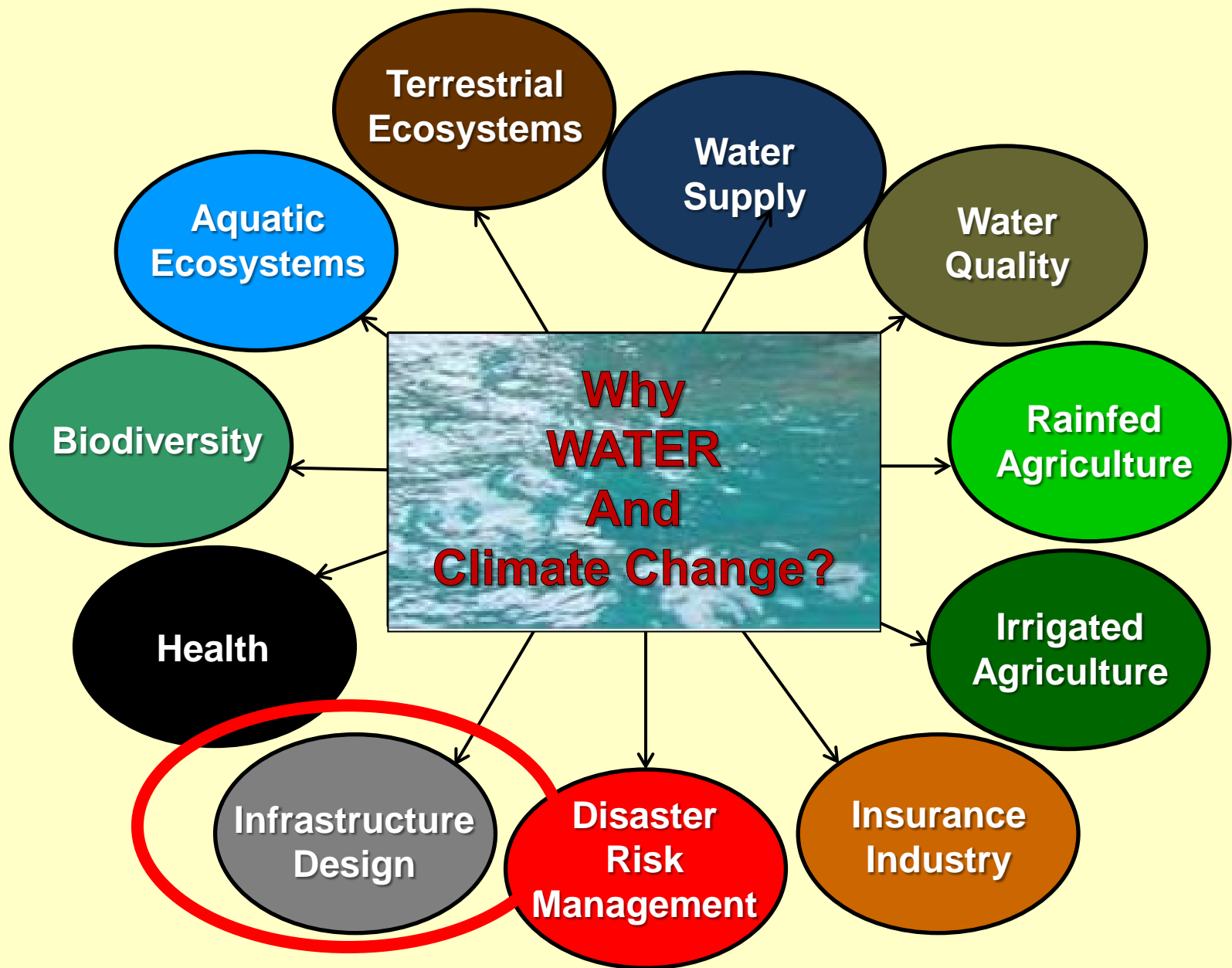
**Dam failure, Tous in Spain,  
October 1982**



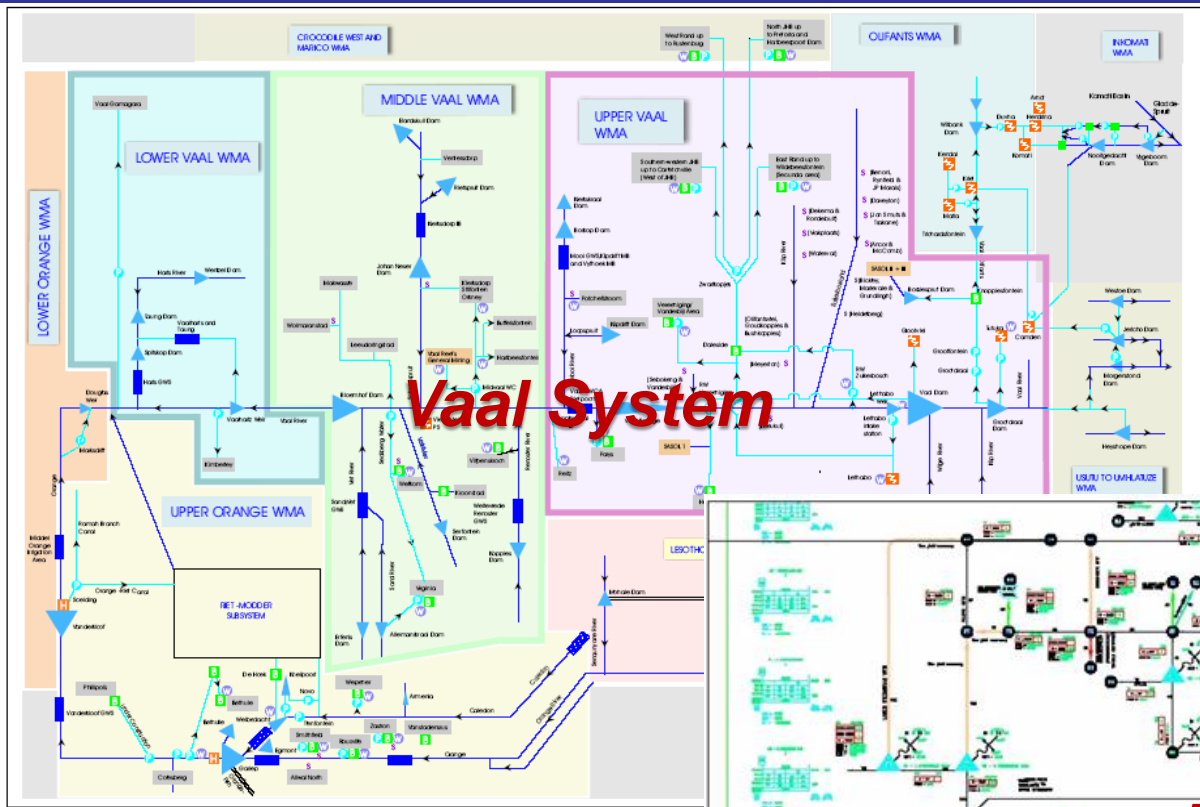
**Examples of Water  
Related Disasters ...  
What Does the  
Future Hold? Are we  
Prepared?**



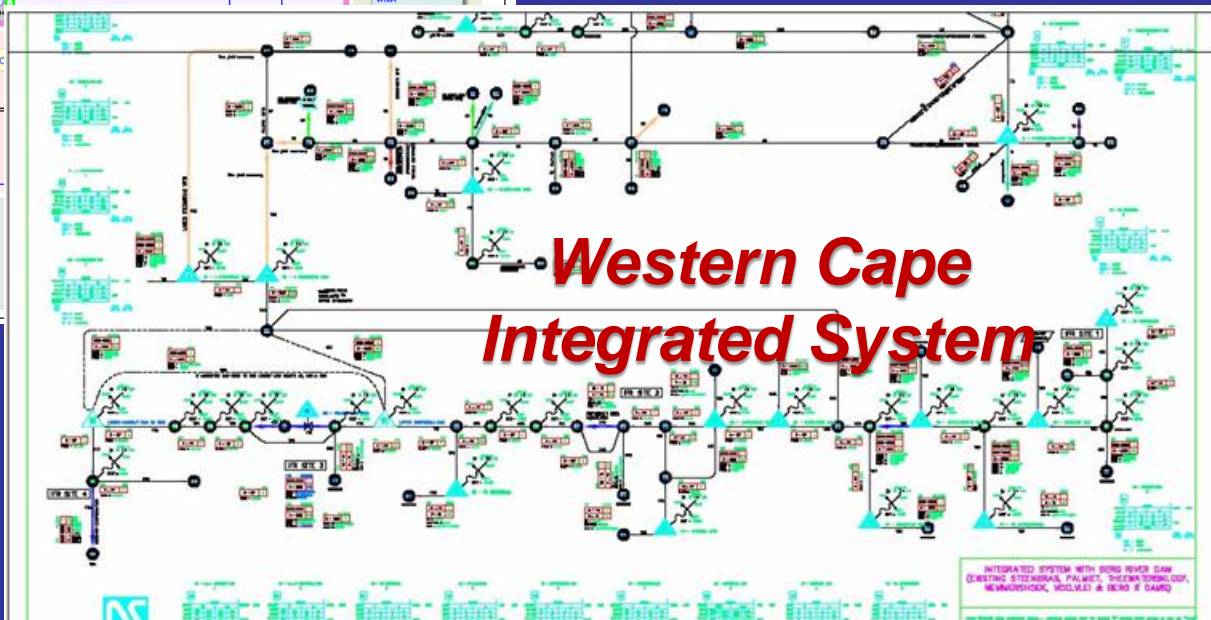
**Flood Losses**



# The Present: We Have "Re-Plumbed" Natural Flow Systems & We Need to Assess CC Impacts on these Re-Plumbed Systems



DWA, 2004





***The Present: We are NOT Maintaining our Water Related Infrastructure – High Dysfunctunality***



2011/10/04 11:59

# “High Risk Areas”: Wastewater Treatment Works : Performance Rating

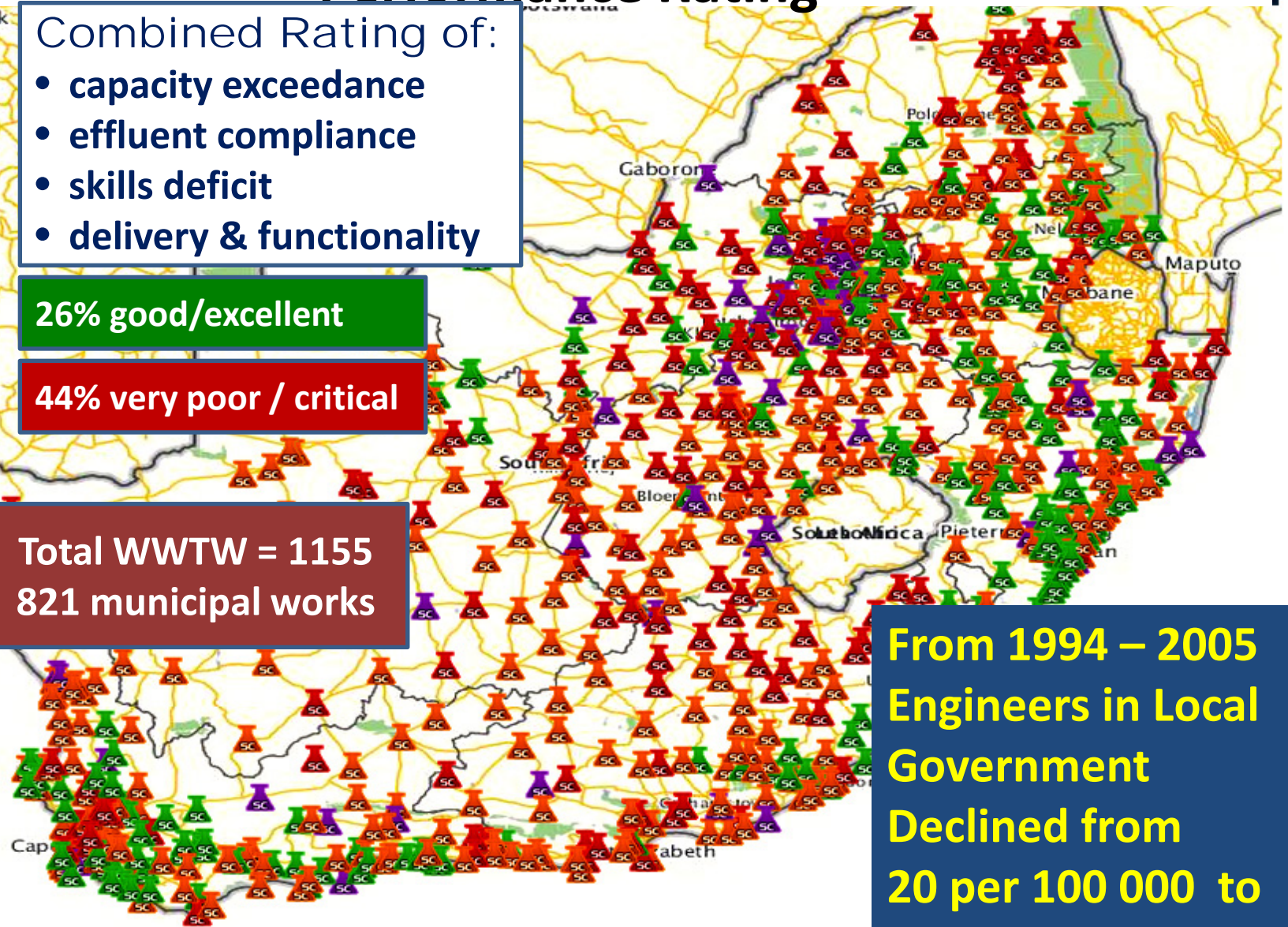
Combined Rating of:

- capacity exceedance
- effluent compliance
- skills deficit
- delivery & functionality

26% good/excellent

44% very poor / critical

Total WWTW = 1155  
821 municipal works



From 1994 – 2005  
Engineers in Local  
Government  
Declined from  
20 per 100 000 to  
3 per 100 000

Source: Evans (DWA), 2012

# ***But, We Have to Deal With Designs and Safety of Hydraulic Infrastructure***

**(dams, IBTs, WWTWs, stormwater systems etc)**

- # Expensive,**
- # Essentially Irreversible and**
- # Usually have a Design Life 50 to 100 years...**

**... to function well into the era of the extremes expected with CC. Are we factoring this into designs?**





**Remembering that the Conventional  
Engineering Concept of Stationarity  
(basing designs solely on [short? suspect?]  
historical data)**

**is probably no longer valid !**

**# We can no longer design water infrastructure  
on data which tells us only so much, but not**

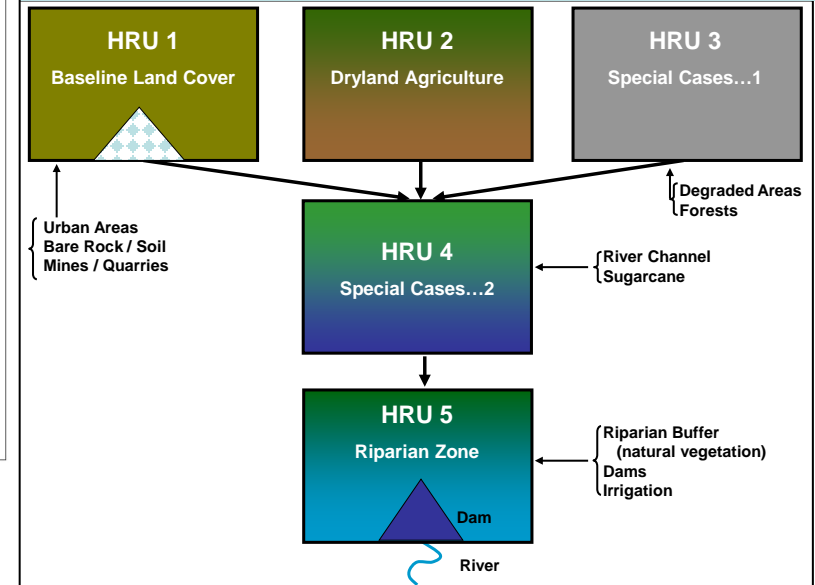
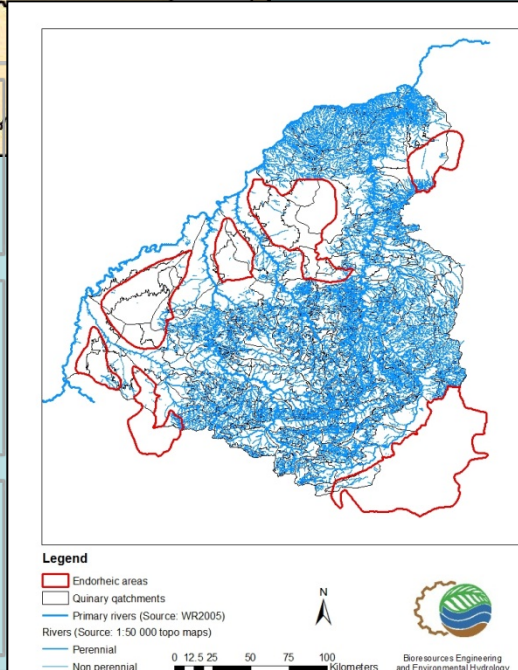
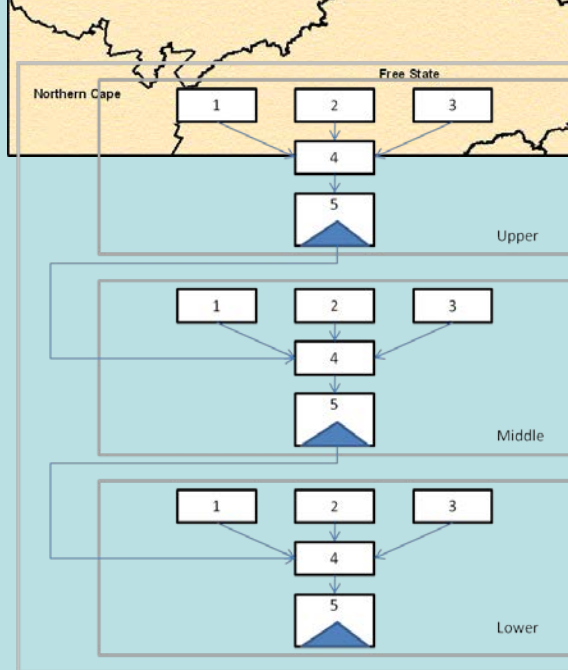
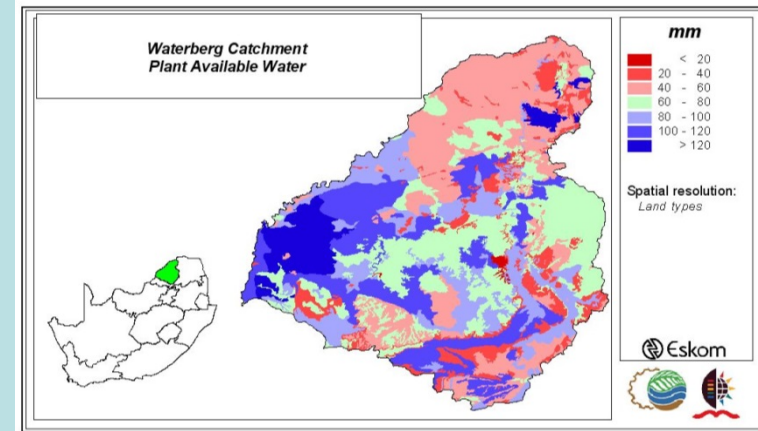
**the whole story**

**# Our CC research  
re. extremes needs  
refining**

**# Engineers designing  
hydraulic structures  
may need re-training**

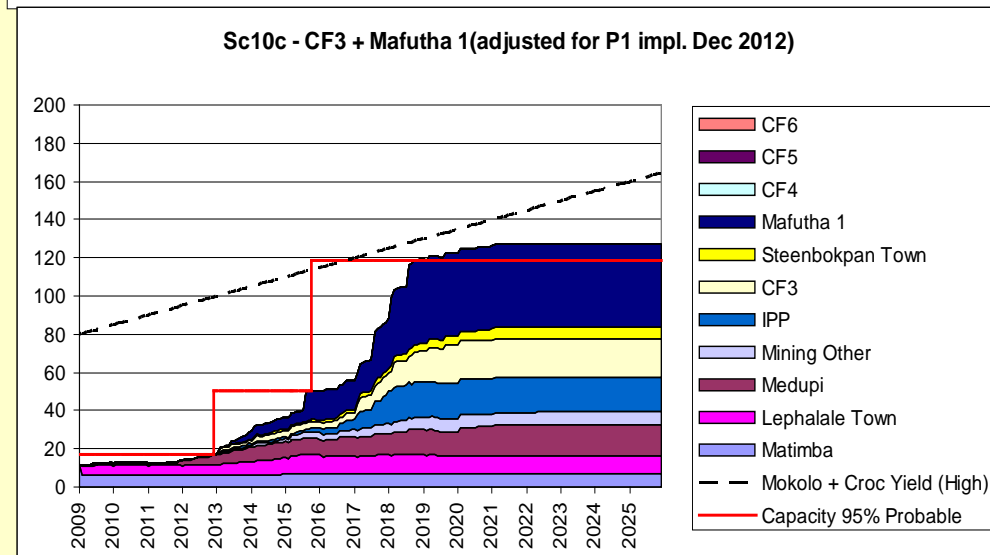
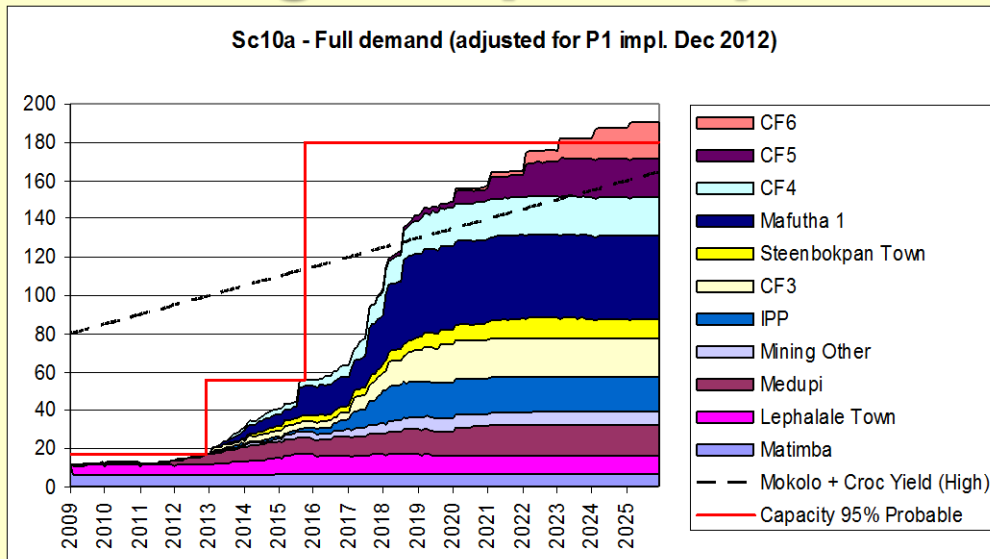
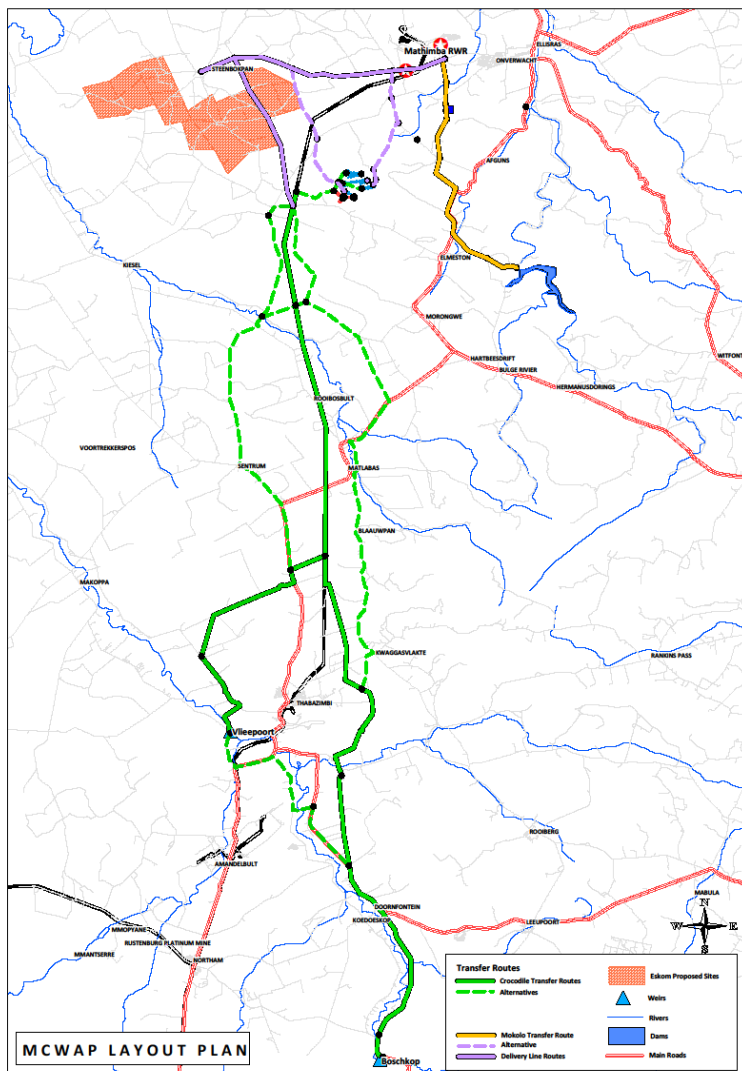


# The Future: Major NEW DEVELOPMENTS are Still Being Initiated, Often with Little Consideration of Possible Impacts of CC

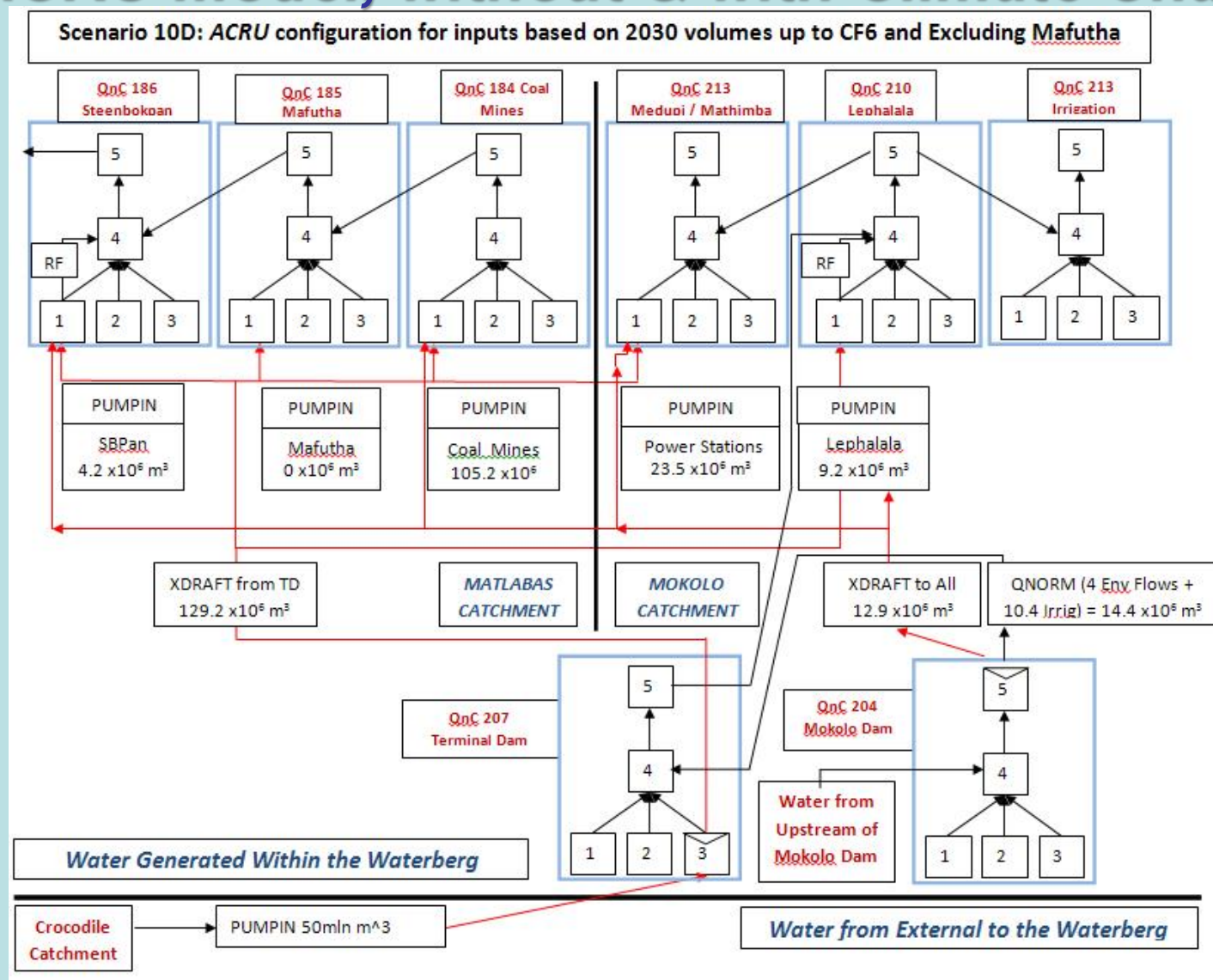


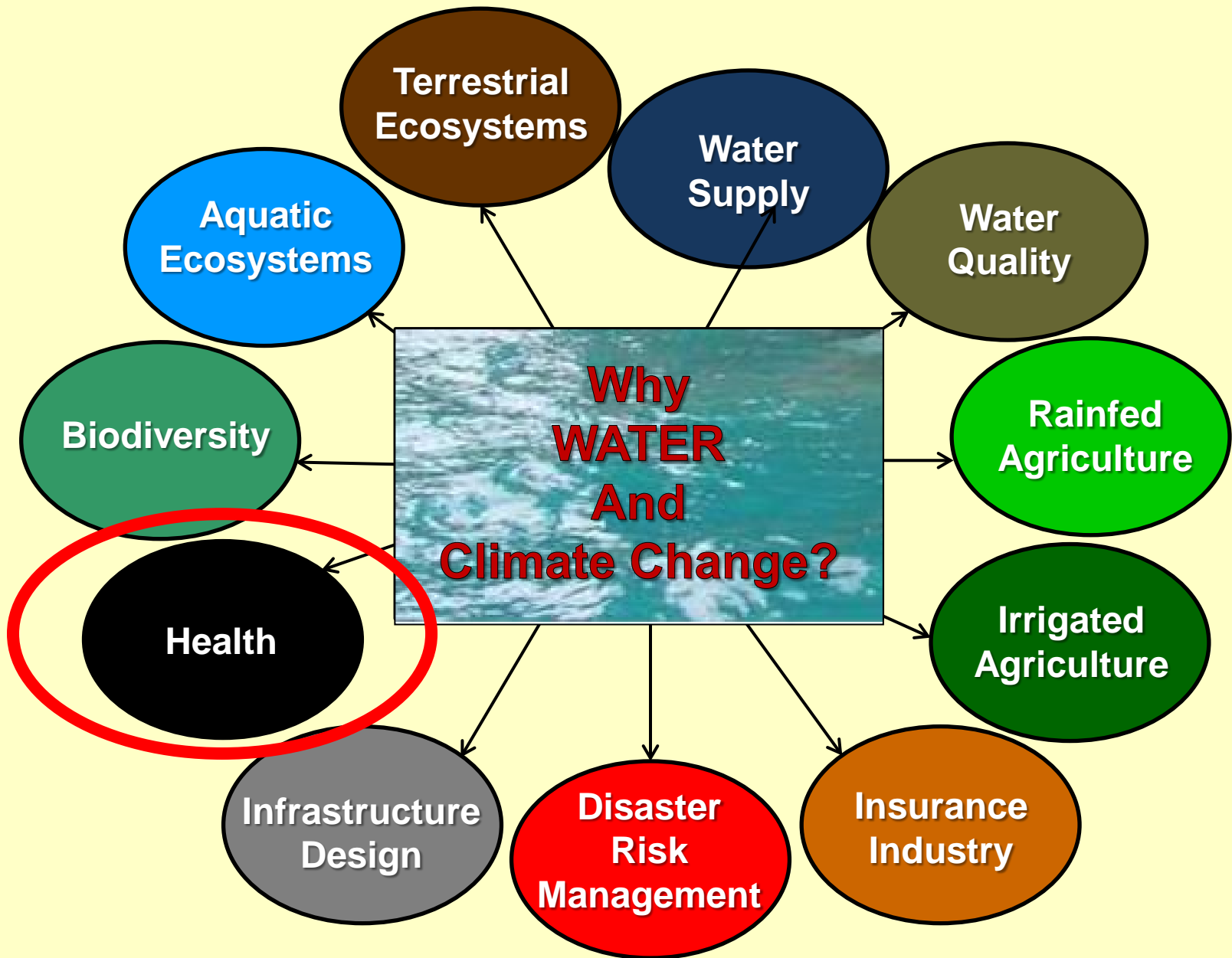


# Waterberg: Different Development Scenarios and Their Water Security Ramifications .. What about Climate Change Superimposed?



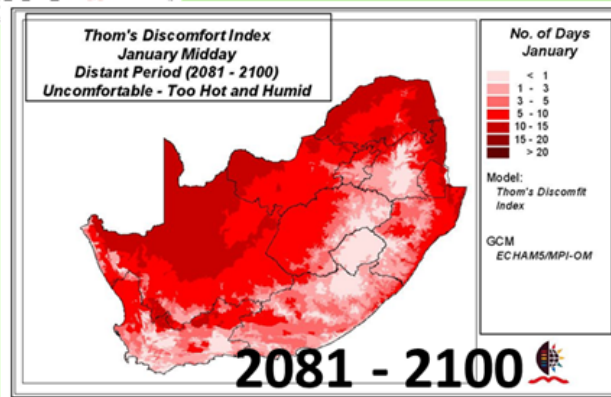
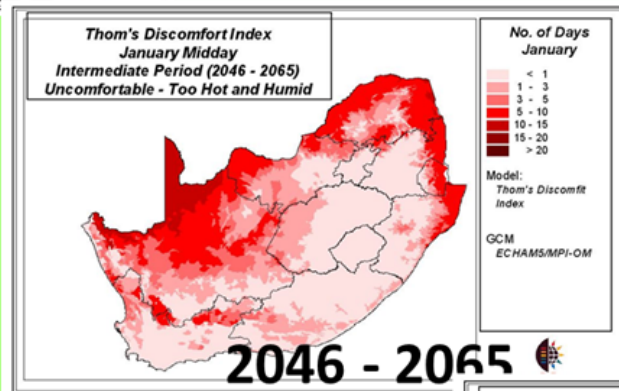
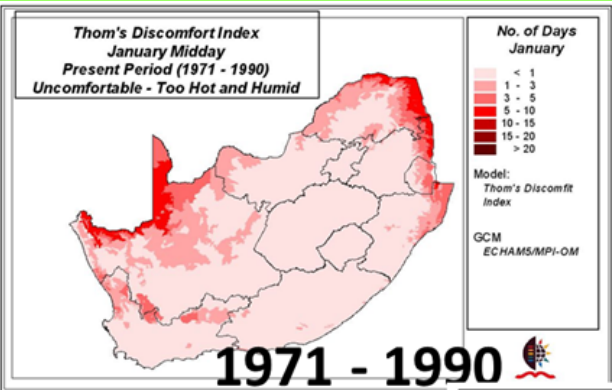
# Modelling In-Stream & Downstream Impacts of Water Engineered Scenarios in the Waterberg with the ACRU model, without & with Climate Change





# CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN (AND ANIMAL) DISCOMFORT

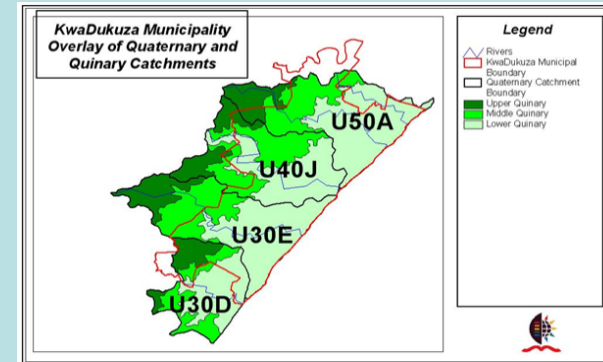
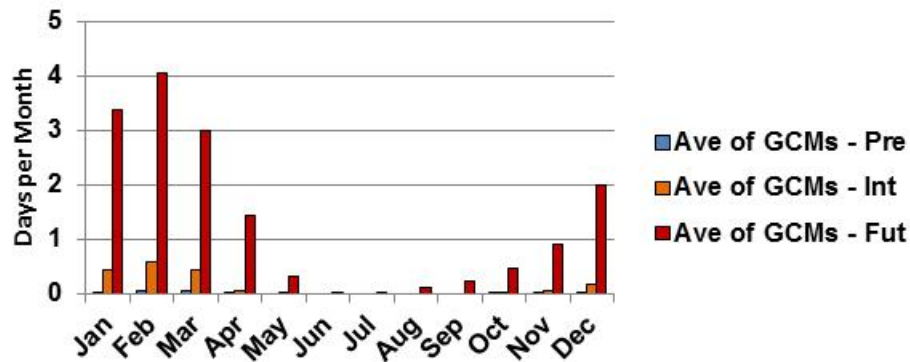
**Projected Days in January when Humans (and Animals) Experience Discomfort / Heat Load Around Mid-day**



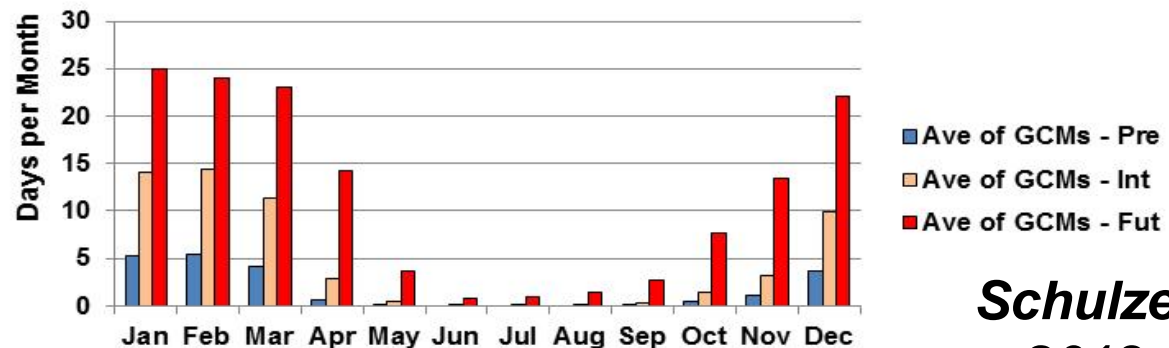
**Other Implications: Mortality;  
Water Usage; Energy Usage;  
Holiday Times**

# And, looking more closely...

Changes in Thom's Human Discomfort Index  
Alexandria, Quinary P10G3  
Number of Uncomfortable Days  
Average of Multiple GCMs; Mid-Day



Changes in Thom's Human Discomfort Index  
Ballito, Quinary U30E3  
Number of Uncomfortable Days  
Average of Multiple GCMs; Mid-Day



Schulze,  
2013

Repercussions: Evap; Milk production; Agricultural labourers



## *My Perspective Today:*

# ***Climate Change is a Risk Multiplier, Especially in Developing Countries***

**We need to ask country relevant climate smart questions**

- 1. beyond the AR5 Policy Makers' Document,**
- 2. beyond the changes in 'DJF', 'MAM' syndrome,**
- 3. beyond 'motherhood statements' on gloom & doom in Africa**
- 4. beyond only assessing safe yields from big dams (essentially the DWA approach)**

**to the realities of local water related vulnerabilities of ecosystems and humans in developing countries under CC (the 'drilling deeper')**

# ***Final Take Home Messages... 1***

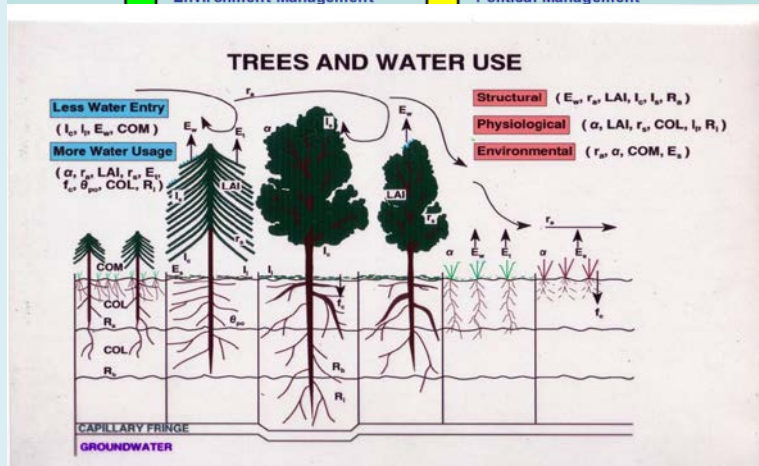
**Water is the “Glue” to CC Adaptation,  
because of its Inter- and Cross Linkages to  
Health, Disaster Risk Management,  
Agriculture, Biodiversity**

**This places a huge responsibility on Hydrology and  
WR Management to get our CC act together re.**

**Disciplinary Research  
Trans-disciplinary Research  
Communication**

# Final Take Home Messages... 2

In developing countries CC could help promote institutional openness and jurisdictional cohesion



# *Final Take Home Messages... 3*

**Be Prepared!**

**Be Adaptive, not Reactive**

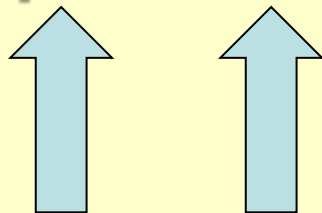
**We need to Act NOW on Adaptation Strategies and Action Plans, rather than before Effects of CC become a Challenge an Order of Magnitude more Difficult to Adapting to**

**However, in developing countries we need to first tackle**

**“deficit adaptation”, i.e. doing now what we should be doing anyway!!**

# ***The Key Messages from the Take-Home Messages***

- 1. CC poses new challenges to water managers***
  - a. Neither is CC all 'gloom and doom'***
  - b. Nor is it 'business as usual' , believing that 'everything under control'***
  
- 2. There is a need to adapt, by way of***
  - a. A **strategy** for adaptation in the water sector***
  - b. Some **practical** approaches to adaptation***



# ***On Practical Adaptation...1***

## ***Categories to be Considered in Enhancing Adaptive Capacity to CC in the Water Sector***

- 1. Knowledge and Skills Participation***
- 2. Policy Instruments***
- 3. Risk Sharing / Spreading***
- 4. Enhancing Adaptive Capacity via  
Technological and Structural Change***
- 5. Changes in Uses/Activities/Location***

# **On Practical Adaptation...2**

## **Categories to be Considered...**

### **1. Enhancing Adaptive Capacity via Technology / Structures**

- a. Storage & Reticulation (e.g. Surface; Groundwater; System Maintenance; Rainwater Harvesting; Re-Use)**
- b. Desalination**
- c. Flood / Storm Surge Control (e.g. levees, wave breaks)**
- d. Early Warning Systems (near real-time; medium and long term)**
- e. Communication of Forecasts to End Users**
- f. Operations / Systems Improvements (e.g. ops rules; retrofitting; wastewater treatment works; sanitation)**
- g. Water Demand Management**
- h. Indigenous Coping**
- i. Precipitation Enhancement**
- j. Water Quality / Quantity Monitoring Systems**

# ***On Practical Adaptation...3***

## ***Categories to be Considered...***

### ***2. Knowledge, Skills and Participation***

#### ***a. Research and Development***

- i. Efficient technologies***
- ii. Upgrading of climate modelling***
- iii. Improvements to downscaling / RCMs***
- iv. Fine scale info provision relevant to local managers***
- v. Improve forecasting skills / dissemination***
- vi. Development of drought resistant crops***

#### ***b. Development of Risk Maps / Floodlines***

#### ***c. Communication / Training / Dissemination***

- i. Awareness creation at higher decision making level***
- ii. Awareness creation at operational level***
- iii. Training at mid-management and local levels***

#### ***d. Participatory Approach in Decision-Making***

- i. Establishment of interdepartmental learning platforms***
- ii. Establishment of an integrated communications system***
- iii. Creation of ongoing learning platforms btw water users***



# ***On Practical Adaptation...4***

## ***Categories to be Considered...***

### ***3. Policy Instruments***

***a. International Conventions***

***b. International Water Agreements***

***c. International Trade***

***d. National Water Master Plans***

***i. National Water Act of 1998***

***ii. Water Services Act of 1997***

***iii. National Water Resource Strategy of 2004, 2013***

***iv. Water for Growth and Development Framework of 2009***

***v. Catchment Management Strategies***

***vi. Estuary Management Plans***

***c. Other National Master Plans***

***i. National Environmental Management Act***

***ii. Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act***

***d. Provincial Strategies***

***i. Provincial Growth and Development Strategies***

***ii. Provincial Water Reconciliation Strategies***

***e. Local Strategies***

***i. Municipal Bye-Laws***

# ***On Practical Adaptation...5***

## ***Categories to be Considered...***

### ***3. Risk Sharing / Spreading***

#### ***a. Private Sector Strategies***

##### ***i. Insurance***

- \* Primary insurance***
- \* Re-insurance***
- \* Micro-insurance***

##### ***ii. Banks***

- \* Development Banks***
- \* Private Banks***
- \* Micro-lenders***

#### ***b. Public Sector Strategies***

- \* Flood and Drought Relief***



*Atlas of climate change and  
the South African Agricultural  
Sector: A 2010 perspective*

[www.daff.gov.za/Divisions/Other/Climate\\_Change\\_and\\_Disaster\\_Management/Documents](http://www.daff.gov.za/Divisions/Other/Climate_Change_and_Disaster_Management/Documents)

**R.E. Schulze**  
**(2011; 41 Chapters, pp 388)**



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forestry & fisheries

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Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



*Available from  
WRC since  
February 2013;  
(pp 366) +  
Handbook on  
Adaptation*

