

SECTION C: SITE DESCRIPTION AND CONTEXT

SECTION SYNOPSIS

This section provides a description of the following:

- Key characteristics and location of the area
- Global, regional and local context
- Legislation context

3 DESCRIPTION AND CONTEXT

3.1 THE GOURITS RIVER CATCHMENT AREA

The area referred to as the Gourits River Catchment Area (GRCA) consists of the following (refer to Figure 1):

- The Gourits River Catchment
- The tributaries that feed into the Gourits River and their catchments.
- The municipal areas of: Baviaans, Beaufort West, Kannaland, Lainsburg, Langeberg, Mosselbay, Oudshoorn, Prince Albert, Swellendam, ECDMA 10, WCDMA 02 and WCDMA 05.

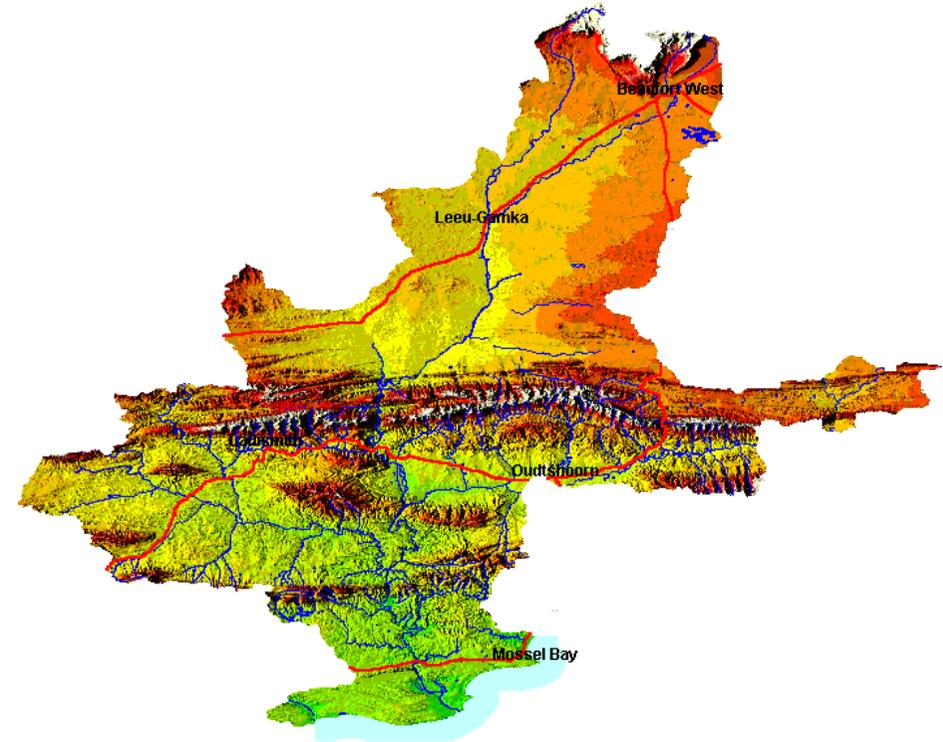


Figure 1: The Gourits River Catchment Area (DEAT 2002/3)

3.2 REGIONAL CONTEXT

The Gourits River Catchment Area is situated along the southern coast of South Africa and extends inland across the Little Karoo. The area has two primary climatic regions that display distinctly different characteristics; the large arid inland Karoo area drained by the Gourits River and the smaller humid strip of land along the coastal belt with several small rivers. Economic activity in the arid areas is centred around sheep and ostrich farming, with extensive irrigation: lucerne, grapes and deciduous fruit, and forestry, tourism and petrochemical industries in the coastal region. Indigenous forests, wetlands and estuaries of high conservation status are found in the humid areas.

The Gourits River Catchment area is part of three other areas i.e. Cederberg and Baviaans (refer to Figure 2)

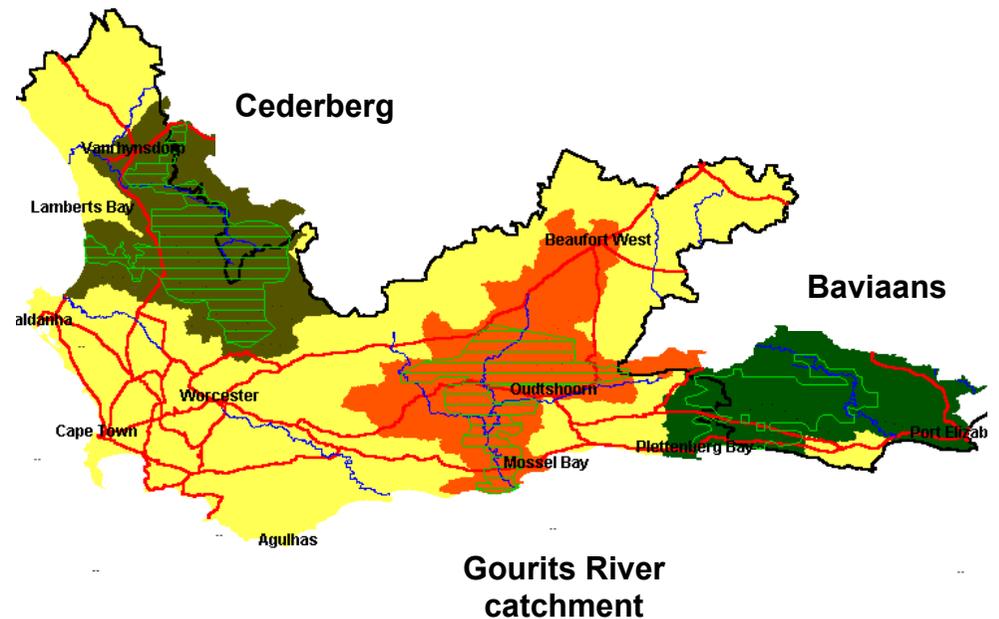


Figure 2: Cape Floral Kingdom (DEAT 2002/3)

3.3 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

In this chapter, the primary environmental context of the study area is described. Table 2 below summarises the primary environmental aspects and their relevance to the area.

Table 2: Primary environmental aspects.

ASPECT	RELEVANCE AND IMPLICATIONS
Cape Floral Kingdom	Presenting the opportunity to contribute to the conservation of one of the six Floral Kingdoms of the world (e.g. via the promotion of the ideals of the CAPE project)
CAPE Project	Presenting the opportunity to give effect to the strategies put forward by CAPE for conservation of Fynbos
Catchment Area	Presenting the opportunity to contribute towards conserving the catchment area and its vital community supporting functions.
Gourits Mega Reserve	Info not available yet

3.3.1 CAPE FLORAL KINGDOM

The Gourits River Catchment Area falls within the Cape Floral Kingdom, which is internationally recognized as one of the six Floral Kingdoms of the world. This unique Cape Floral Kingdom is the smallest, covering a mere 0.06% of the earth's surface, and is the only Floral Kingdom contained entirely within a single country (refer to Figure 3).



Figure 3: Floristic kingdoms and regions of the world (Van Wyk & Smith 2001:9)

The Cape Floral Kingdom is of immense scientific importance. It covers only 4% of South Africa, but contains 45% of all species occurring in the country. Some 75% of all plants in the South African Red Data Book occur in the Cape Floral Kingdom (Low & Rebelo 1996:49). It is characterised by an exceptional richness in plant species and high endemism. More than 8700 species are known to occur, with more than 68% being endemic⁴ (Van Wyk & Smith 2001:19). It thus compares with some of the richest floras worldwide, surpassing many tropical forest regions in floral diversity.

The Cape Floral Kingdom comprises various biomes, namely Fynbos, Nama Karoo, Succulent Karoo and Thicket (refer to Figure 4). However, Low and Rebelo (1996:45) state that the contribution of Fynbos in terms of species richness, endemism and fame, is so overwhelming, that the Cape Floral Kingdom is considered to be “essentially Fynbos⁵”

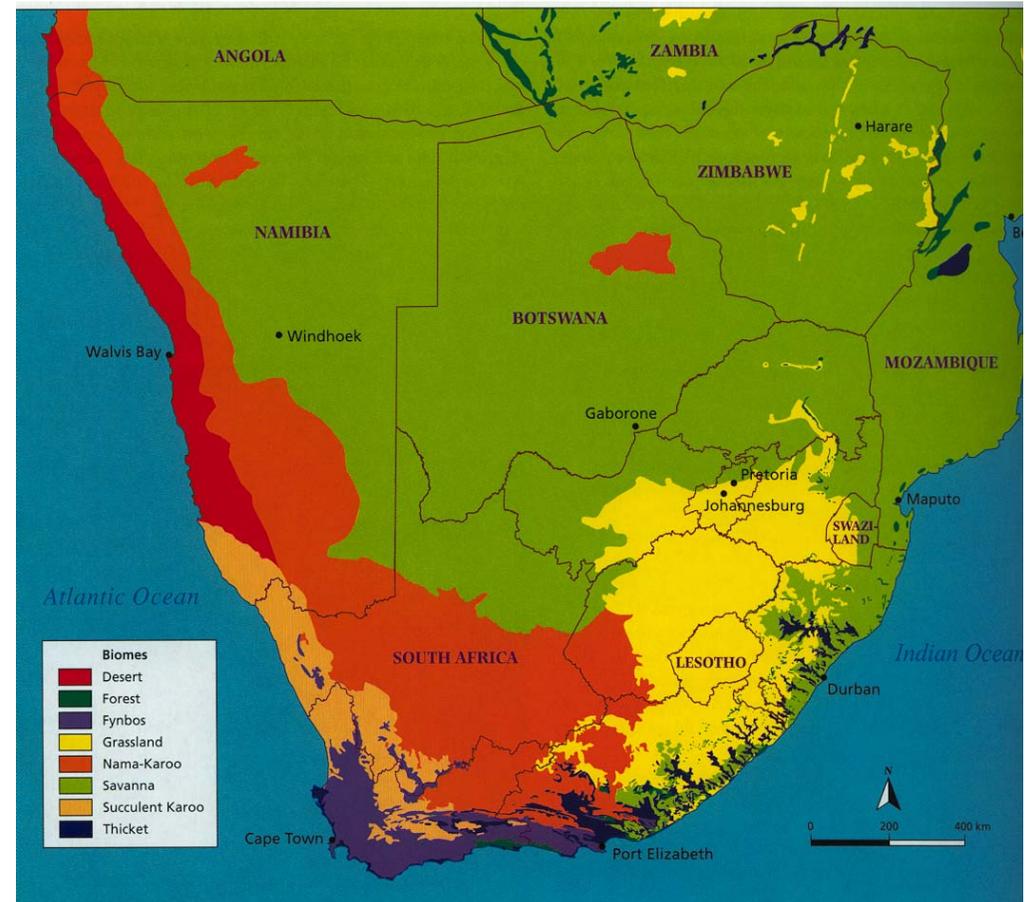


Figure 4: Biomes of southern Africa (Van Wyk & Smith 2001:8)

⁴ Confined to, or exclusive to a particular, specified area
⁵ Fynbos is the noun describing the unique flora that occurs exclusively in the South-Western Cape in a narrow band following the Cape Fold Mountains from north of Nieuwoudtville to near Port Elisabeth (Low & Rebelo 1996:45)

3.3.2 REGIONS AND CENTRES OF PLANT ENDEMISM

Three regions and 18 centres of endemism have been identified in South Africa according to van Wyk & Smith (2001:17). The GRCA falls into two of these regions, that is, the Cape Floristic Region (CFR) and the Succulent Karoo Region (SKR), more specifically the Little Karoo Centre (LKC) in this region (refer to Figure 5).

3.3.3 THE CAPE PROJECT

The CAPE Action Plan for the Environment (CAPE) is a project developed by the South African government in partnership with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to secure the future of the Cape Floral Kingdom. The Cape project was made possible by a grant from the GEF.

The Cape project was established to develop a long-term strategy to conserve biodiversity in the terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems of the Cape Floral Kingdom. It has produced a Strategy and Action Plan. Specific objectives of the Strategy, as stated in the Cape Action Plan For The Environment, include the following:

- a) Establishing an effective reserve network, enhancing off-reserve conservation and supporting bioregional planning.
- b) Developing methods to ensure sustainable yields, promoting compliance with laws, integrating biodiversity concerns into catchment management, and promoting nature-based tourism.

- c) Strengthening institutions, policies and laws, enhancing co-operative governance and community participation and support continued research.

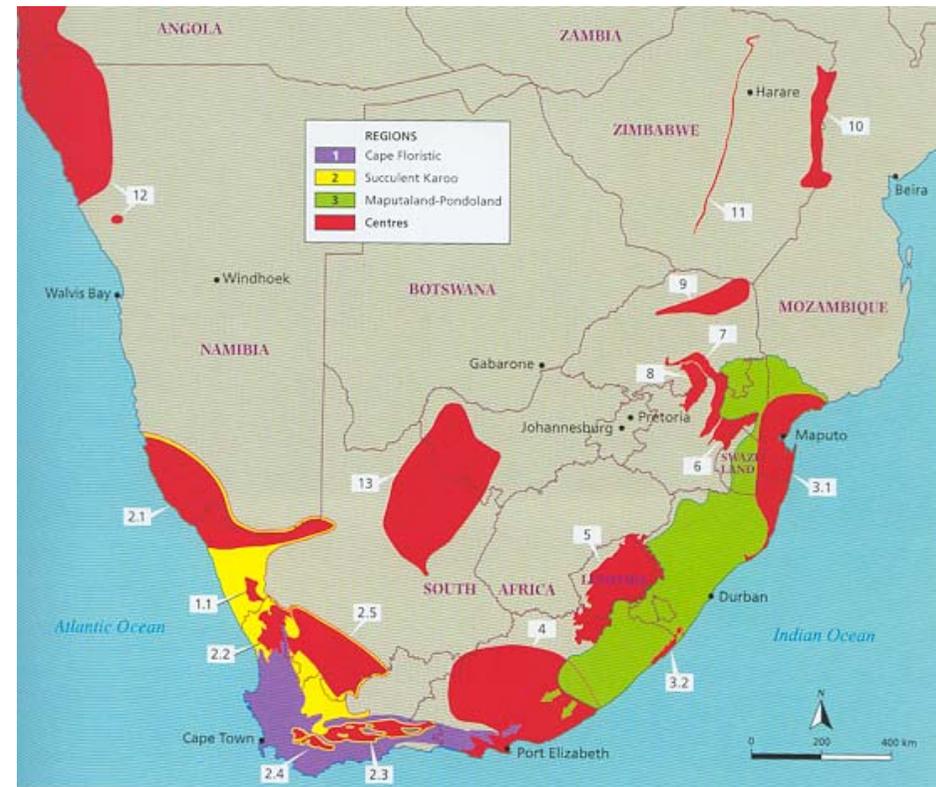


Figure 5: Principal regions and centres in southern Africa (Van Wyk & Smith 2001:17)

3.3.4 CATCHMENT AREA

The Gourits River Catchment Area is the Water Management Area 16: Gourits.

In accordance with the Bioregional Planning Framework for the Western Cape it is of fundamental importance to promote the maintenance of hydrological processes and catchment dynamics when planning and managing areas that form part of a catchment.

Government policy, which forms the basis of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998), states in the article "since many land uses have a significant effect on the water cycle, the regulation of land use should, where appropriate, be used as an instrument to manage water resources".

It is therefore imperative that the rivers that flow into the Gourits River can have an effect on the water cycle and can be managed in a manner that ensures their long-term sustainability.

3.4 BIOPHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The first considerations are historical geology and climate, which, in conjunction, have interacted upon the river basin, for they have created the basic form. When this is understood, the various topographic regions become clearly evident. The current climate and hydrology can be used to explain the pattern of rivers and streams, the distribution of groundwater, relative quantities and physical properties. The pursuit of this information on the movements of sediments, some fluvial processes, other from deposition, will reveal the pattern, distribution and properties of soils. When climate, topography, hydrology and soils are known, the incidence of plants becomes clearer. As animals are all either directly or indirectly plant-related, whether in terrestrial or aquatic environments, knowledge of the plant communities will tend to explain the distribution of animals.

3.4.1 GEOLOGY

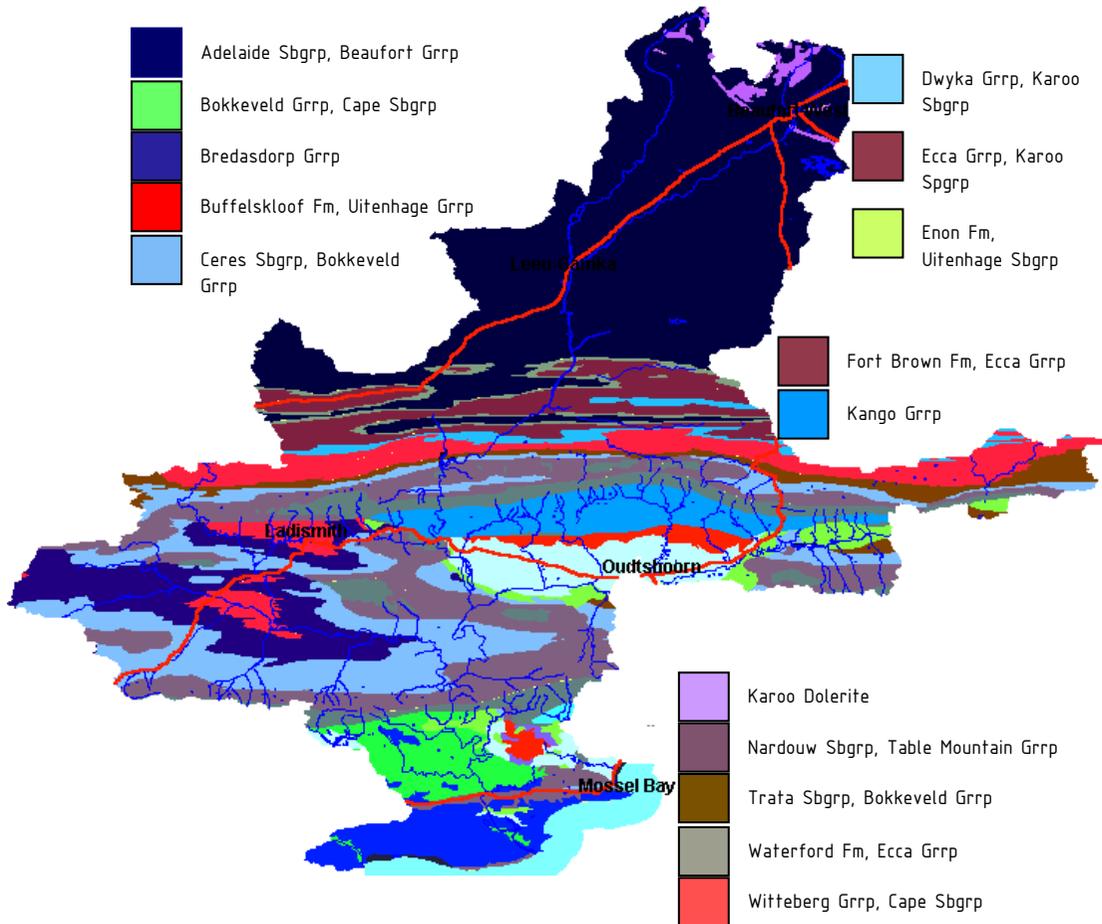


Figure 6: The stratigraphic geology of the GRCA (DEAT 2002/3)

a) Cape Floristic Region

The Cape Floristic Region is geologically dominated by rocks of the Cape Super group that consists of Table Mountain, Bokkeveld and Witteberg Groups (Van Wyk & Smith 2001:21). The Witteberg Group consists mostly of siltstones imbedded with thin beds of sandstone, capped by conspicuous white Quartzite (Van Wyk & Smith 2001:21). Shale's of the Bokkeveld and Malmesbury Groups mainly underlie valleys and the lower slopes of the mountains. Tertiary of younger sands, conglomerate and other types of sediment cover much of the coastal plains.

b) Little Karoo Centre

According to van Wyk and Smith (2001:59). The low-lying regions of the LKG are underlain by mosaic of various rock strata, including sediments of the:

- Kango Group (conglomerate, shale, limestone)
- Bokkeveld Group (shale, siltstone, sandstone)
- Witteberg Group (quartzite, shale)
- Uitenhage Group (conglomerate, siltstone, mudstone, calcrete)

Higher reaches of the Mountains consist of the Table Mountain Group. Scree and alluvium respectively border the mountain chains and major river channels (Van Wyk & Smith 2001:59)

3.4.2 CLIMATE

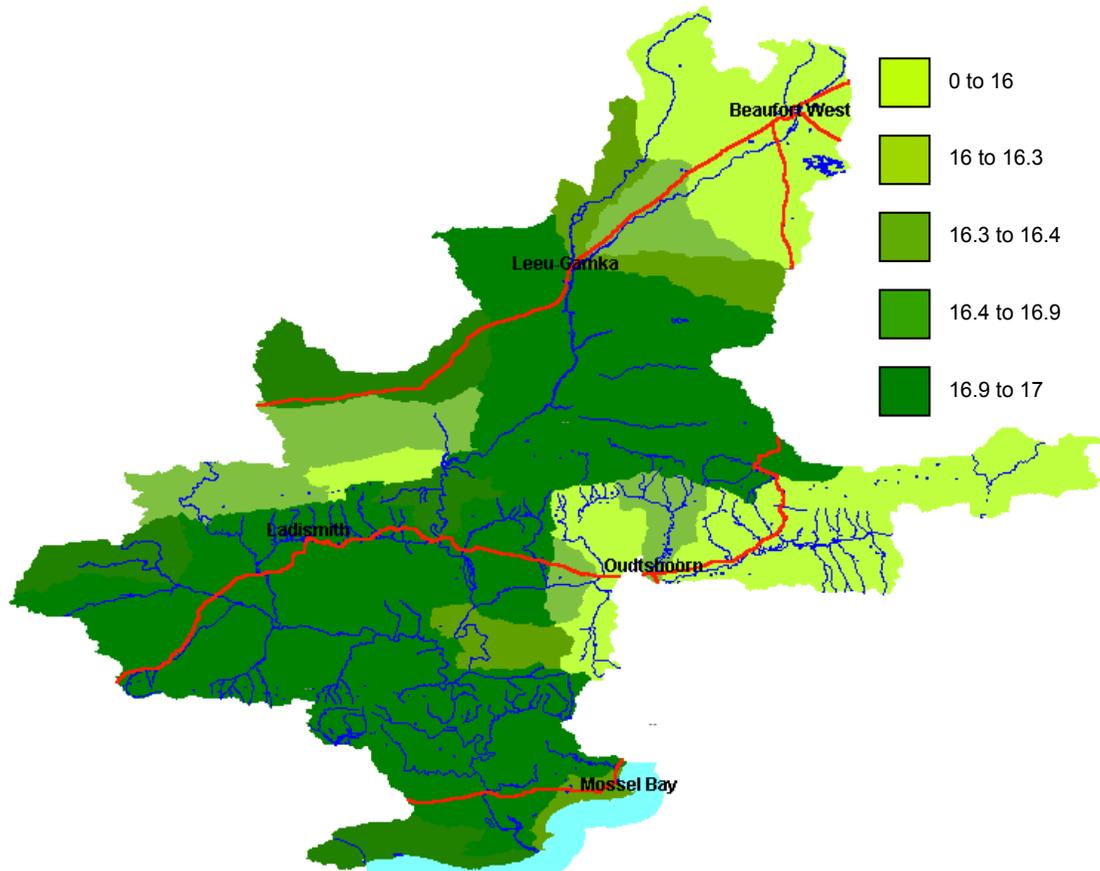


Figure 7: Mean Annual Temperature (DEAT 2002/3)

a) Cape Floristic Region

The rainfall in the eastern part of the CFR is evenly distributed throughout the year but in the western part receives most of its rainfall in the winter. Rainfall towards the west is mainly cyclonic. Towards the far eastern parts occasional convectional thunderstorms are not uncommon in the warmer months (Van Wyk & Smith 2001:20). Throughout the region there are a marked rainfall gradients corresponding to altitudinal gradients. According to van Wyk & Smith (2001:20), the average annual rainfall is mostly between 300 and 2 000mm, but it is estimated to be as high as 5 000mm on some mountain peaks.

Mean annual temperatures vary from 15–16°C at the coast to 17–18°C further inland, but are lower than 13°C at high altitudes. Winds may blow throughout the year, northwesterly gales associated with cyclones in winter, and southeasterly winds in the summer (Van Wyk & Smith 2001:20).

b) Little Karoo Centre

Climatically the Little Karoo is much drier than the higher reaches of its associated mountains. According to van Wyk and Smith (2001:59), arid conditions are caused mainly by rain-shadow affect of the Langeberg in the south. Annual rainfall varies from 125–300 mm, but can be as high as 400 mm locally due to orographic effects.

The western proportion of the LKC receives predominantly cyclonic winter rain (May–September), whereas the eastern proportion receives most of its rain early November and very late summer (Van Wyk & Smith 2001:59).

Very large temperature fluctuations are an outstanding feature of the climate in LKC. Contrasts of 28°C between day and night are not unusual in low-lying regions (Van Wyk & Smith 2001:59). The mean daily maximum temperature is about 26°C, mean daily minimum about 10°C and mean annual temperature about 18°C (Van Wyk & Smith 2001:59). It can be exceedingly hot in the valley, with the average extreme maximum about 44°C. Winter temperatures may drop to an extreme average of -3°C.

3.4.3 TOPOGRAPHY

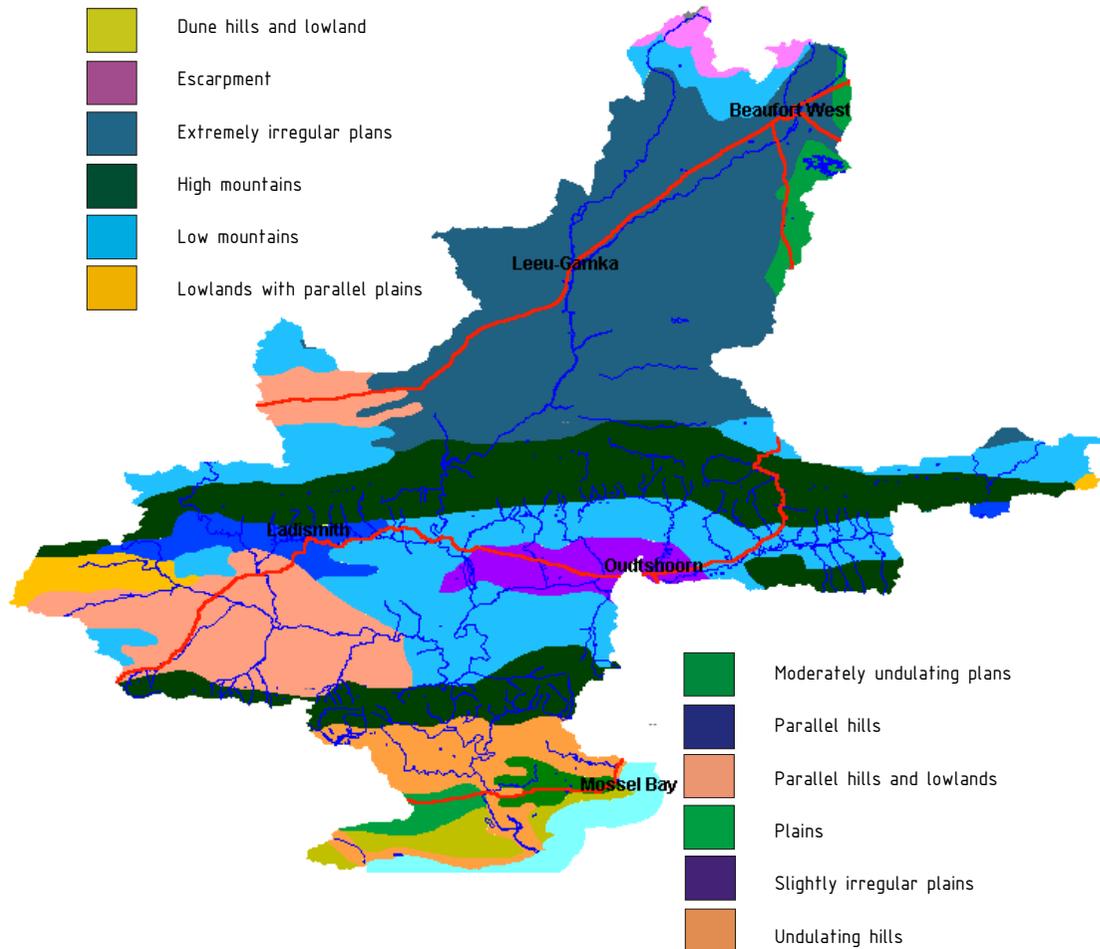


Figure 8: The Broad Terrain Topography (DEAT 2002/3)

a) Cape Floristic Region:

The landscape, according to Van Wyk and Smith (2001:20), of the Cape Floristic Region (CFR) is dominated by the subparallel ranges of the Cape Fold Belt mountains and their undulating intermontane valleys. The eastern part of the CFR, the mountains trend is east-west but towards the west the orientation is northerly. The average altitude of the mountains ranges from 1000 - 1500m with individual peaks exceeding 2000m. Low-lying coastal plains covered by deposits of marine origin along the coast, especially south of the Langeberg range (Van Wyk & Smith 2001:20)

b) Little Karoo Centre

The Little Karoo Centre (LKC) consists of level plains and gently rolling hills, rugged rocky ridges and arid mountain foothills and slopes (Van Wyk & Smith 2001:59). Over most of the valley floor, according to Van Wyk and Smith 2001:59), the altitude varies from 200 - 400 m. Between Calitzdorp and Van Wyksdorp the Rooiberg Range (1490 m) cuts across the valley and divides the LKC into a western (Ladismith Karoo) and eastern portion. East of Oudshoorn towards Uniondale the very rugged Kammanasie Mountains rise to 1955 m.

3.4.4 HYDROLOGY

The Gourits River Catchment Area consists of six Secondary catchments, refer to Figure 9.

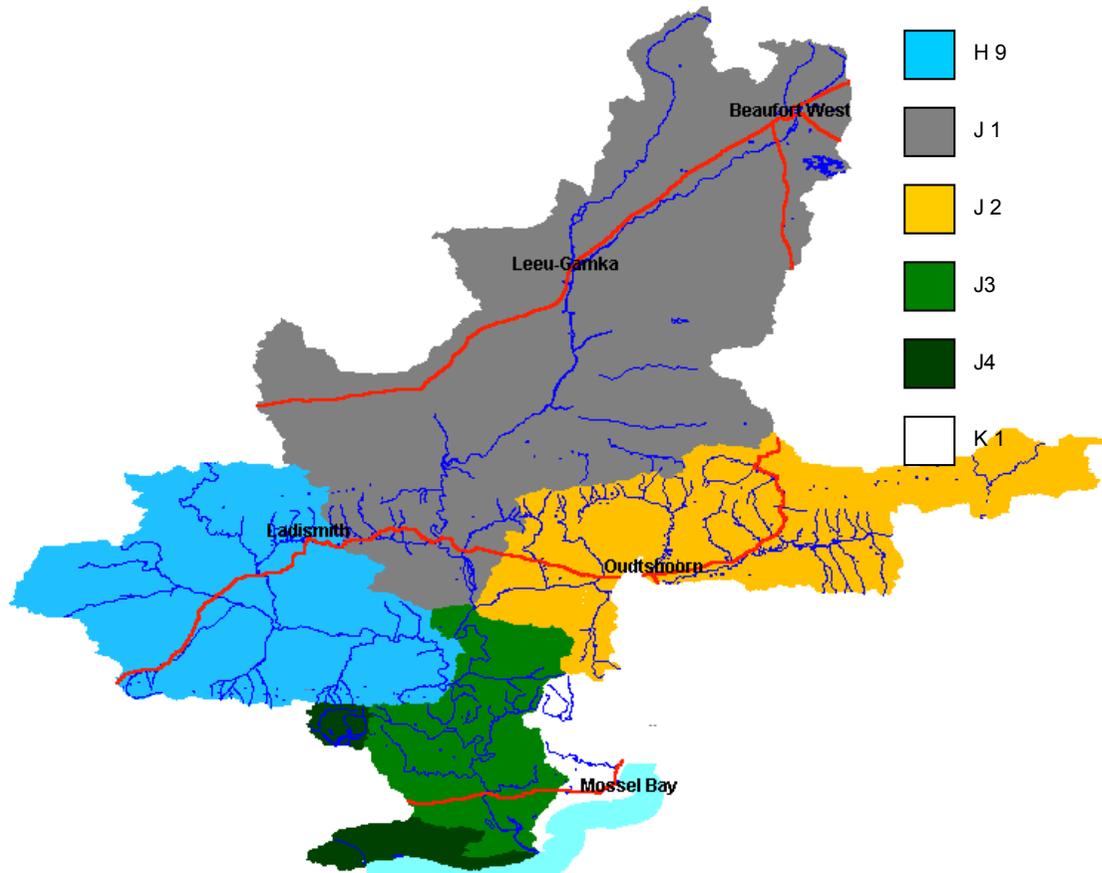
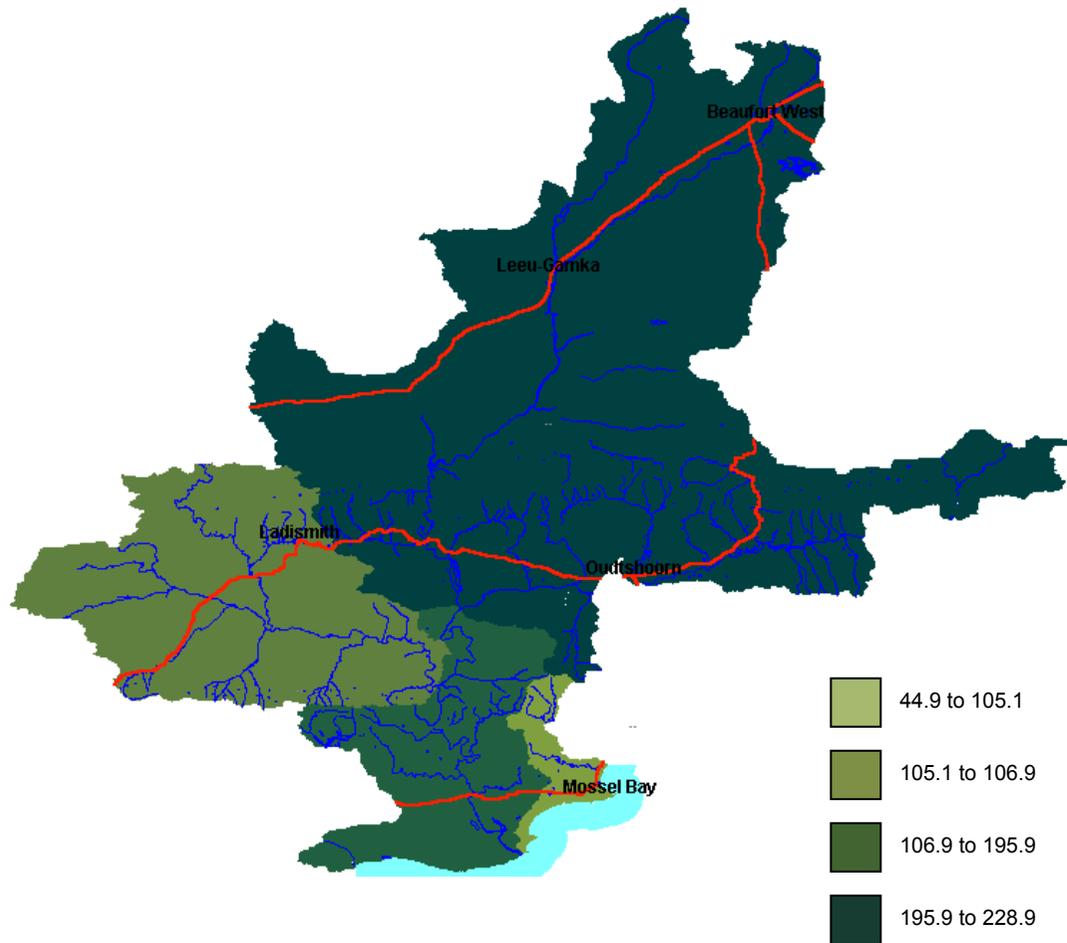


Figure 9: The Secondary Catchments Codes (DEAT 2002/3)

The Mean Annual Runoff for these Secondary catchments, varies from 47.9 cubic meters to 228.9 cubic meters, refer to Figure 10.

Several dams control the Gourits River and its tributaries. Dams have also been constructed on some of the coastal rivers, where potential for further regulation remains. A substantial proportion of the yield is from groundwater, with strong interdependence between surface water and groundwater.

At current levels of development, deficits occur in all the sub-areas, with the exception of the lower Gourits River. These are mainly as a result of irrigation requirements, which are in excess of the water available, but where farming practices have been adopted accordingly. The deficit reflected for the coastal region is mostly attributable to the provision made for implementation of the Reserve. At present day conditions all urban/industrial uses can be fully supplied. However, the total irrigation requirements cannot always be supplied from run-of-river.



There are 29 classified wetland systems and four estuaries in the GRCA. These estuaries are:

- Blinde River
- Gourits River
- Hartenbosch
- Kafferkuils (Stilbaai)

Figure 10: The Secondary Mean Annual Runoff (DEAT 2002/3)

3.4.5 SOILS

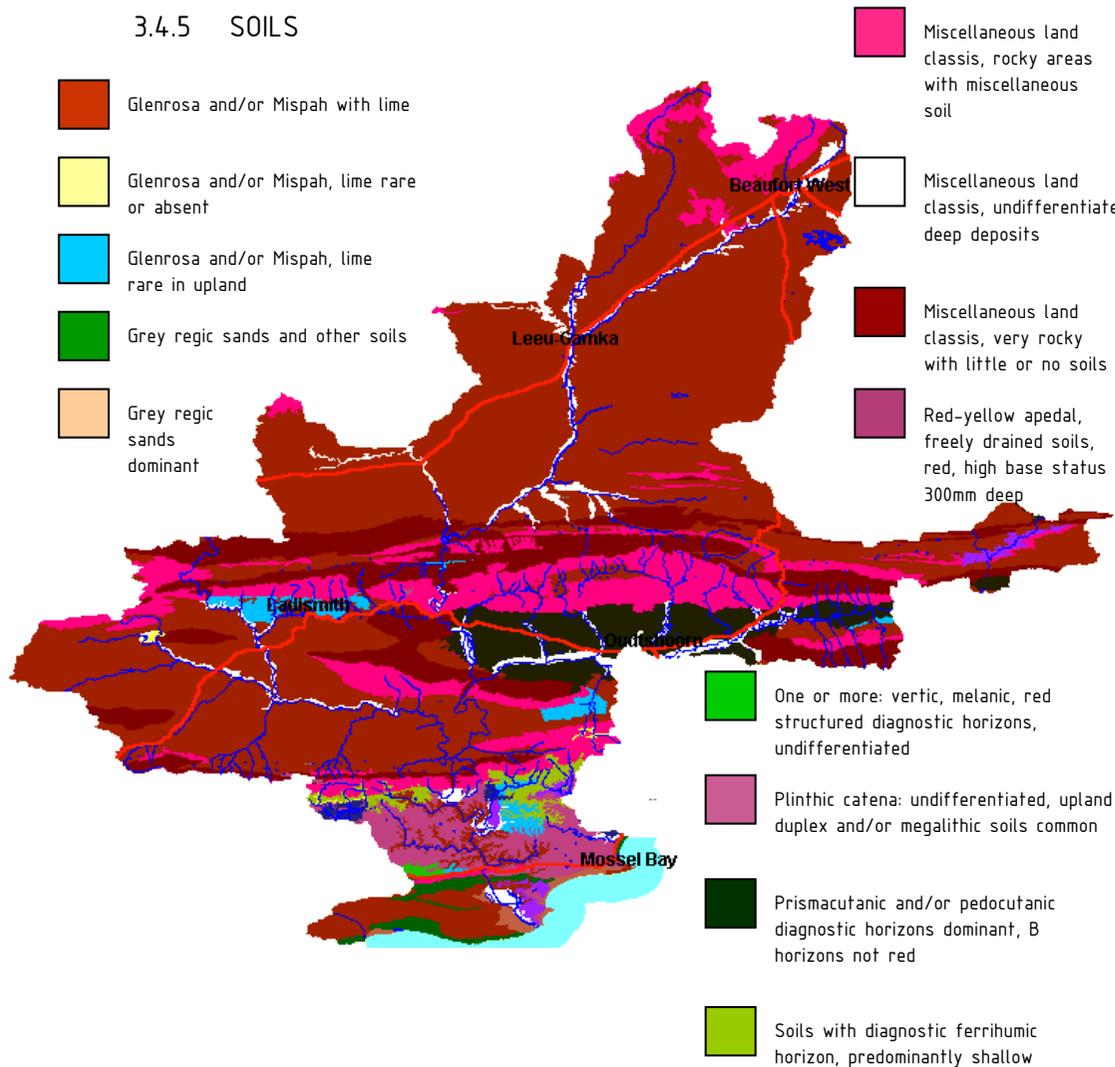


Figure 11: Soil Descriptions (DEAT 2002/3)

These soil descriptions are very specific and describe only the type of soils but to understand the potential for development Figure 12 combined these specific types into Soil Potential Classes.

a) Cape Floristic Region

The quartzites of the Cape Supergroup generally give rise to soils that are acidic, nutrient-poor, coarse-grained, rocky and shallow. This is the dominant soil type on the Cape Mountains. Clay-rich and more fertile soils are limited and have developed from the shale's of the Bokkeveld and Malmesbury Groups as well as from the Cape granites (Van Wyk & Smith 2001:21). Shallow, gravelly soils develop from patches of silcrete and ferricrete, which cap much of the Bokkeveld shale's in parts of the southern Overberg.

b) Little Karoo Centre

Soils in the valleys are predominantly shallow and stony, derived mainly from shale's and conglomerates. They are clayey, fertile and alkaline (Van Wyk & Smith 2001:59). In parts (mainly in the triangle formed by Barrydale, Ladismith and Van Wyksdorp) the weathering of quartz veins creates local fields of white quartz pebbles (Van Wyk & Smith 2001:59).

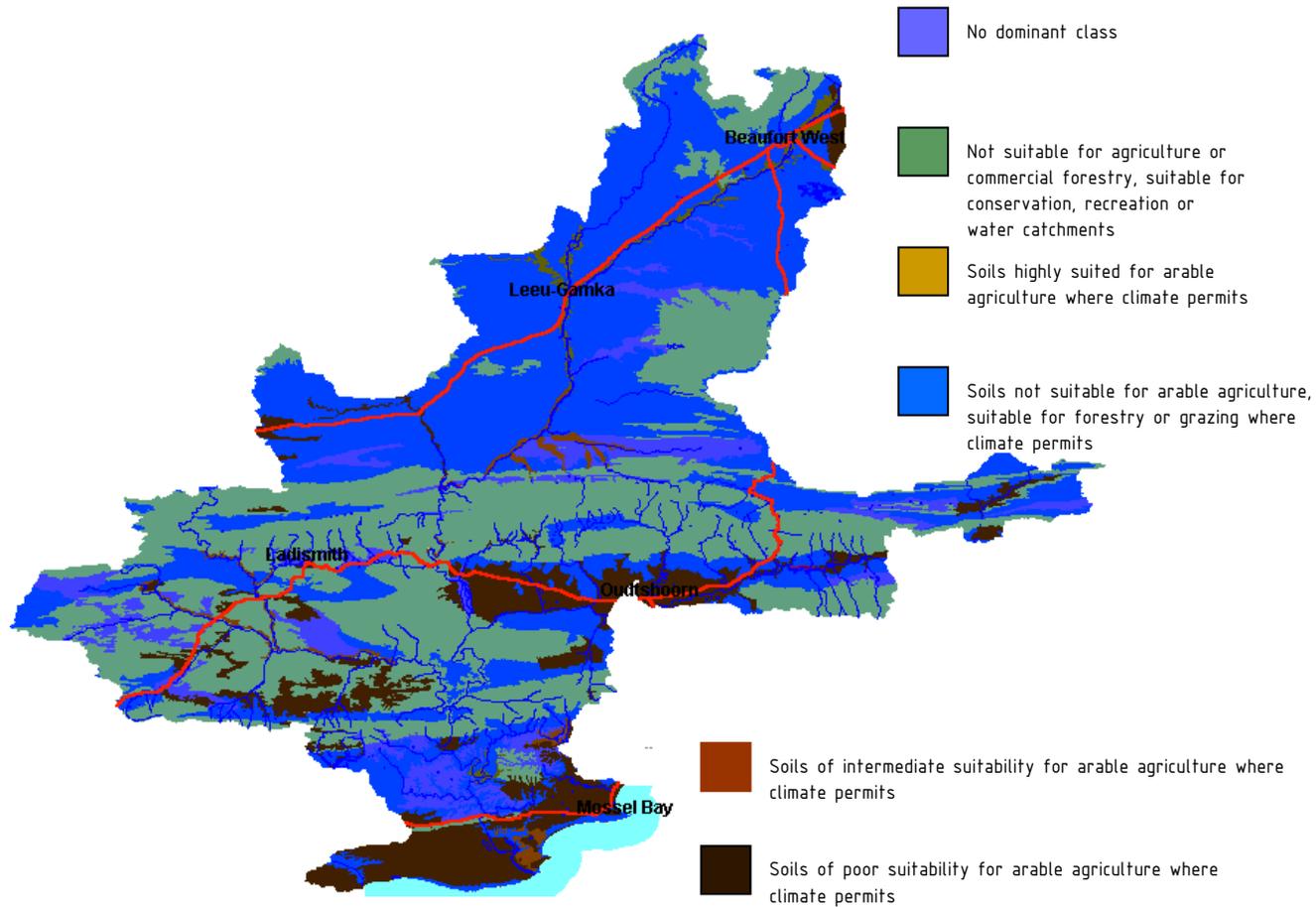


Figure 12: Soil Potential Classes (DEAT 2002/3)

3.4.6 VEGETATION

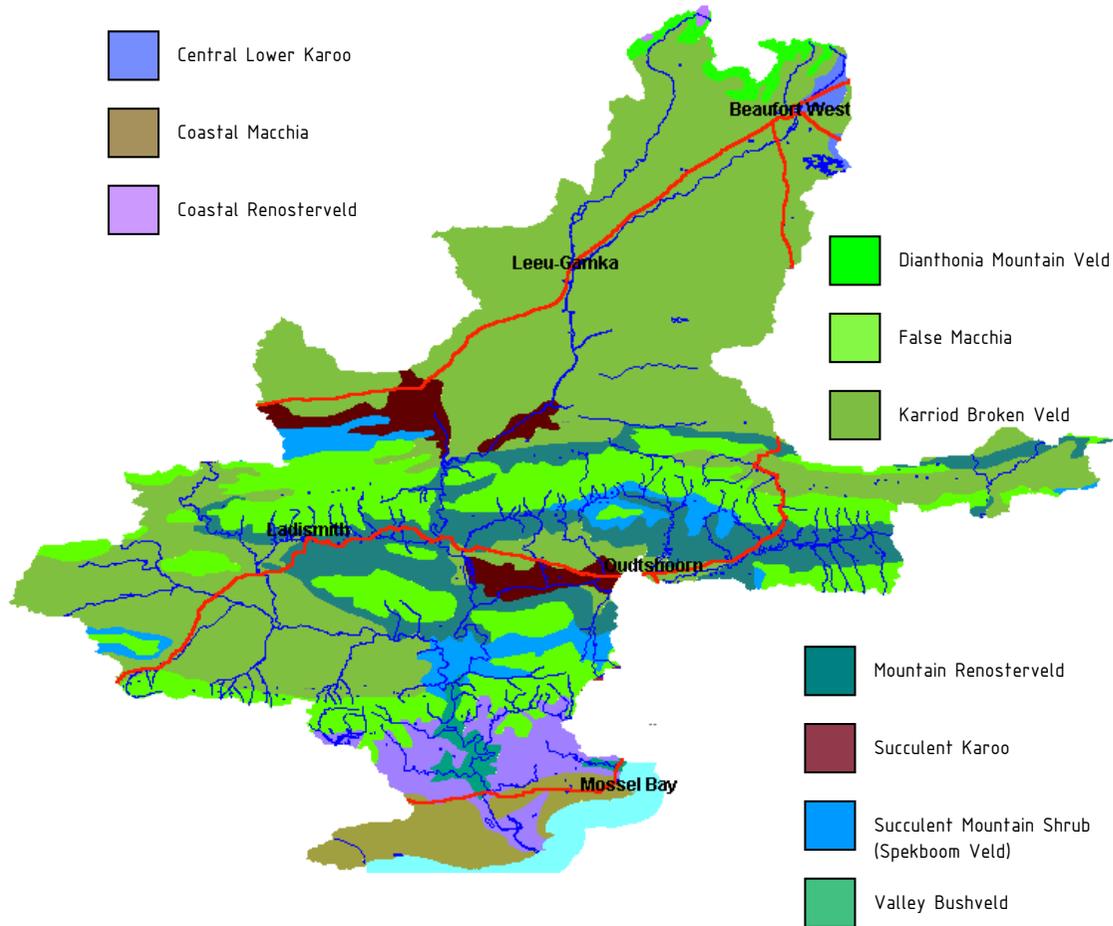


Figure 13: Acocks veld types (DEAT 2002/3)

a) Cape Floristic Region

Five broad vegetation types have been recognised in the CFR according to van Wyk and Smith (2001:21):

- Fynbos
- Renosterveld
- Succulent Karoo
- Subtropical Thicket
- Afromontane Forrest

Fynbos and Renosterveld are the main vegetation types in the CFR. Both are fire-climax shrublands, with burning intervals of 4–60 years for Fynbos and 2–15 years for Renosterveld. Fynbos is the prevalent vegetation type of the CFR and is mainly associated with the nutrient-poor soils of the Cape Fold Belt Mountains (Van Wyk & Smith 2001:21). Many different types of Fynbos vegetation are recognized, e.g., proteoid, ericaceous, dry and grassy Fynbos.

Renosterveld resembles Fynbos in being dominated by ericoid shrubs, but is quite different floristically, with very few members of Restionaceae, Ericaceae and Proteaceae.

b) Little Karoo Centre

The predominant vegetation type of the LKC is broadly classified as Little Succulent Karoo, with Spekboomveld (Spekboom Succulent Thicket) mainly on the north-facing aspect of hills, notably between Calitzdorp and Oudtshoorn (Van Wyk & Smith 2001:60). Dense stands of Acacia karoo grow along some of the riverbanks.

Central Mountain Renosterveld is found mainly in the western Little Karoo and occurs on soils derived from rocks of the Bokkeveld and Witteberg Group and rarely on Karoo Supergroup shale's (Van Wyk & Smith 2001:59). South and Southwest Coast Renosterveld. Which is characterised by a high proportion of grasses, occurs in the eastern Little Karoo, mainly on clays and slits derived from Bokkeveld and Kango Group shale's and Uitenhage Group conglomerates (Van Wyk & Smith 2001:59). Enclaves of Renosterveld and Fynbos cap nearly all higher koppies and mountains.

3.4.7 HABITAT

a) Birds

There are four sensitivity zones of all the bird species in this area. Within the zones are there different bird classification zones where the specific birds are grouped.

There are a full Bio Atlas Species Report of these groups of birds in Addendum A

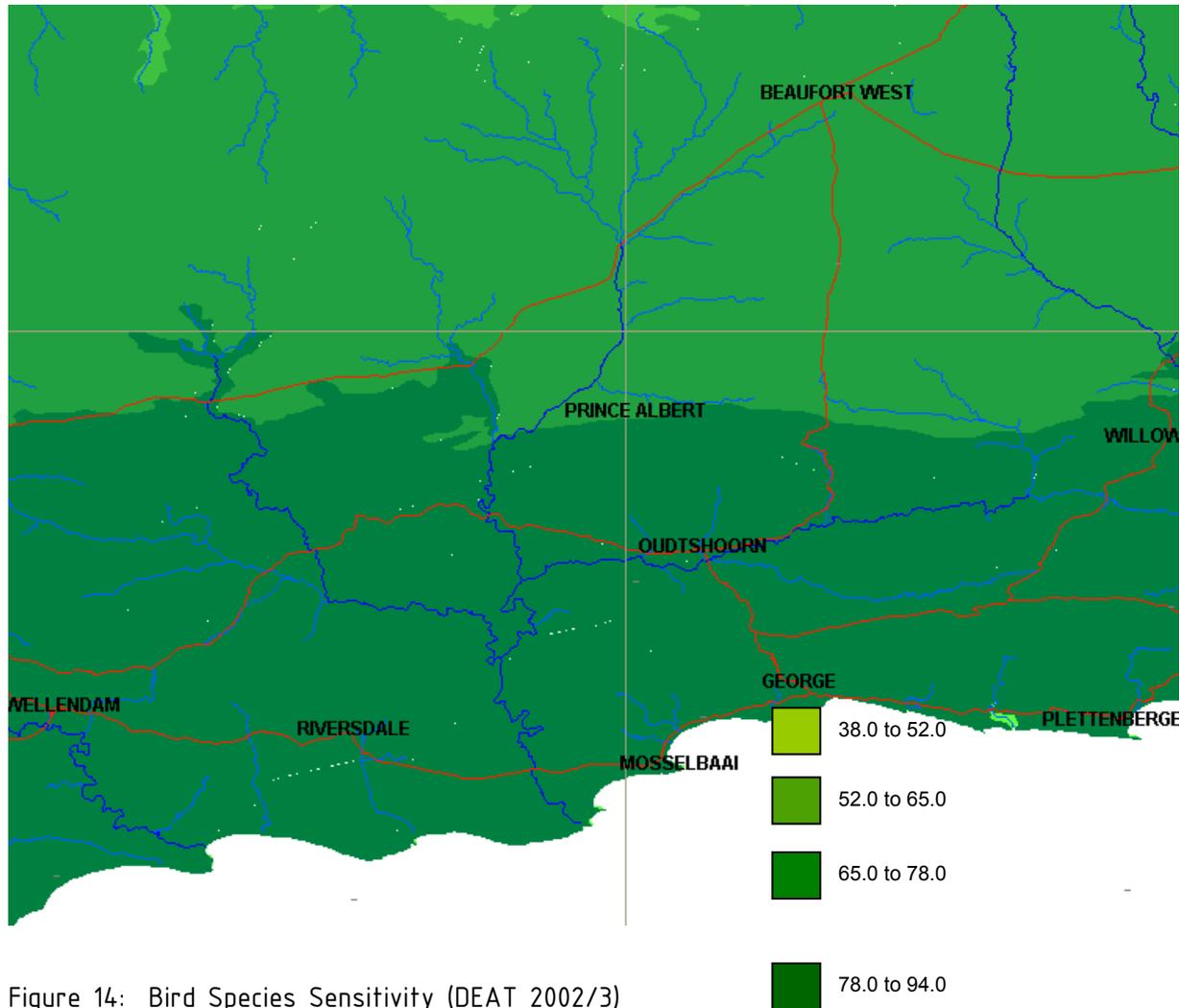
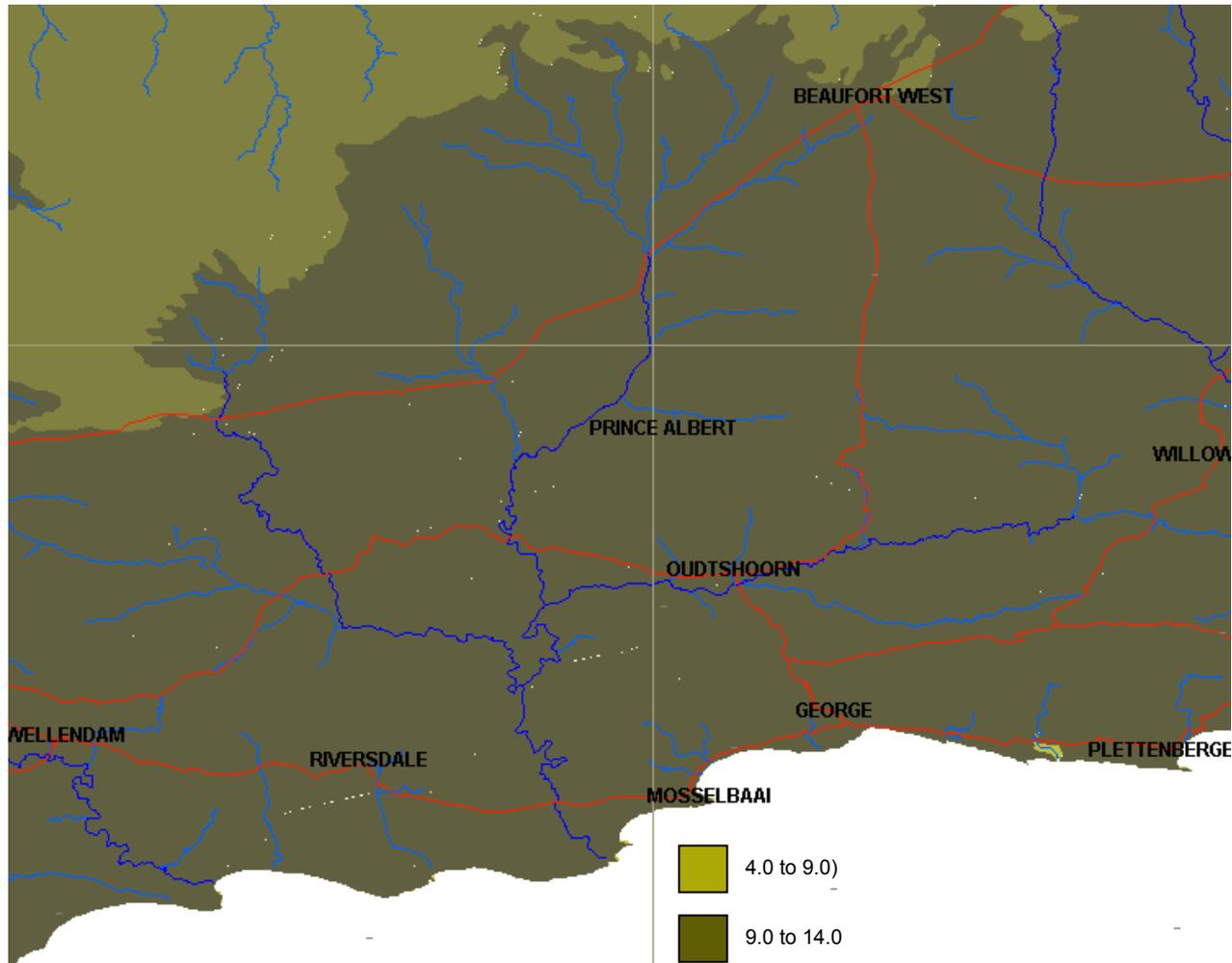


Figure 14: Bird Species Sensitivity (DEAT 2002/3)

b) Mammals

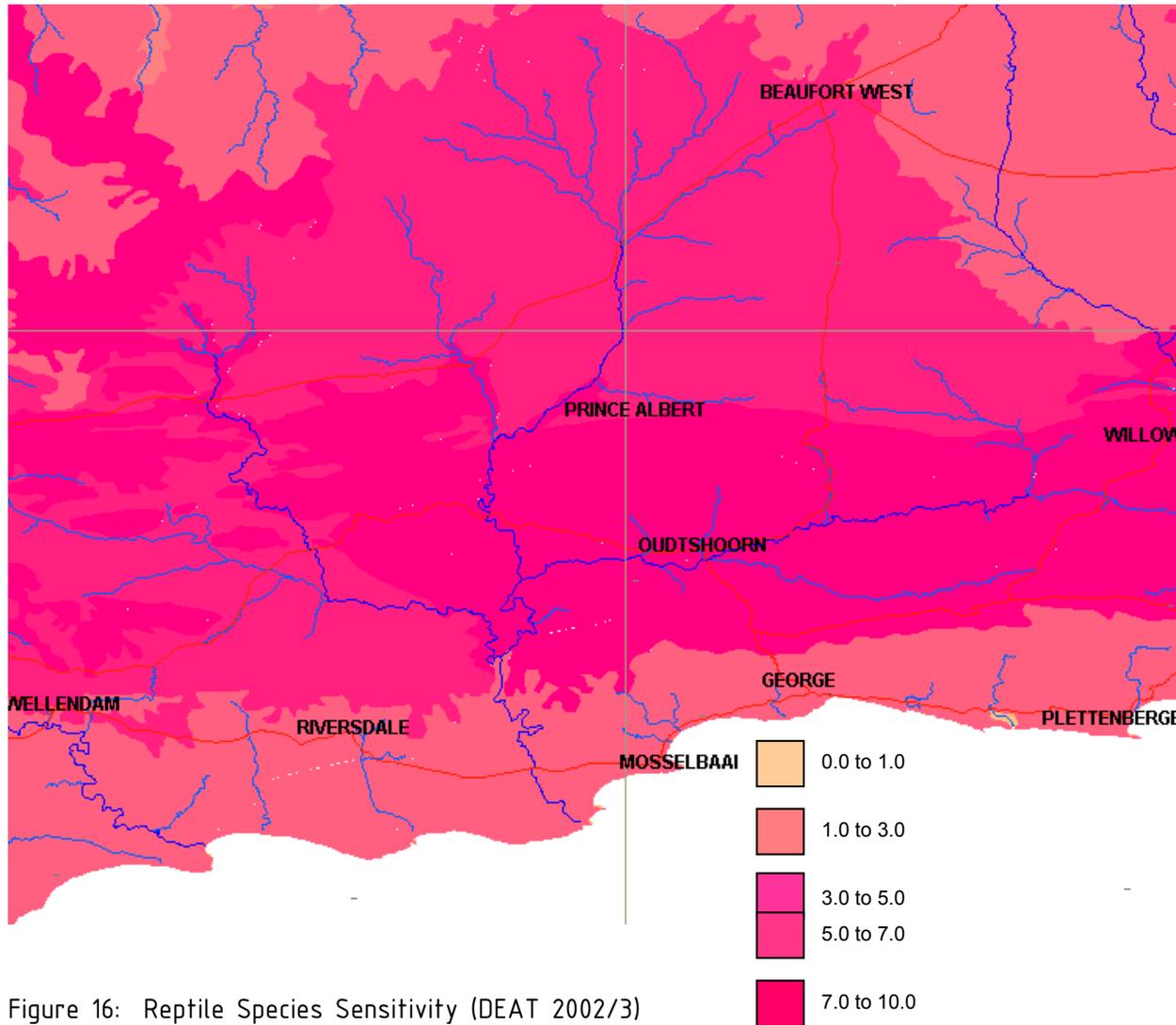


The area is part of two mammal species sensitivity areas. Within these areas are zones of different groups that consist of specific animals.

There is a full Bio Species Atlas report of these groups of animals in Addendum A.

Figure 15: Mammal Species Sensitivity (DEAT 2002/3)

c) Reptiles



The area is part of five reptile species sensitivity areas. Within this areas are zones of different groups that consist of specific reptiles

There are a full Bio Species Atlas report of these groups of reptiles in Addendum A

Figure 16: Reptile Species Sensitivity (DEAT 2002/3)

d) Scarabs

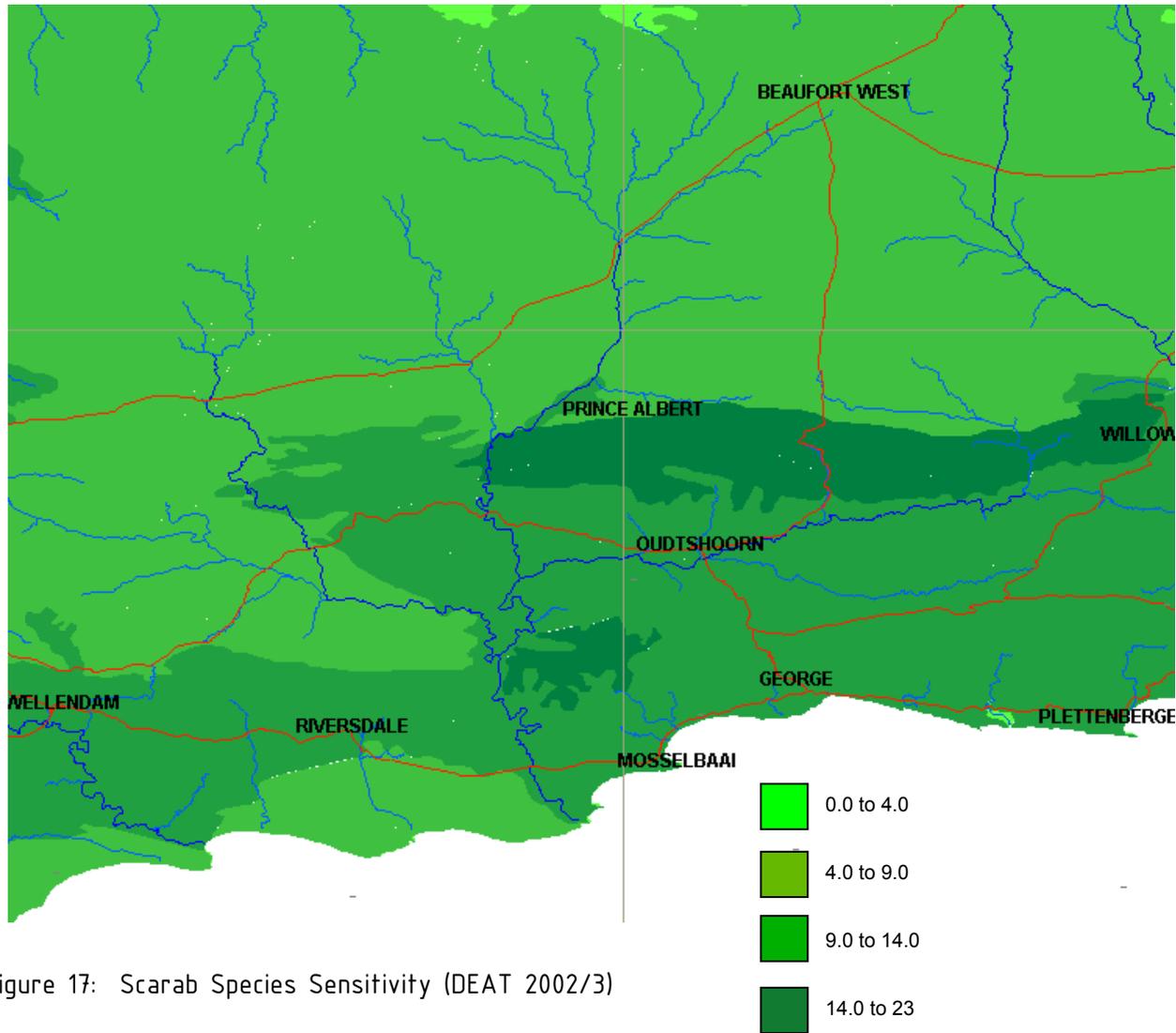


Figure 17: Scarab Species Sensitivity (DEAT 2002/3)

The area is part of four reptile species sensitivity areas. Within this areas are zones of different groups that consist of specific reptiles

There are a full Bio Species Atlas report of these groups of reptiles in Addendum A

3.5 SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT

a) Social Considerations

Studies of economic growth worldwide have focused on a series of key indicators. These include per capita income, life expectancy and education levels. South Africa is in the medium category of the Human Development Index and was ranked 89th out of 174 countries in 1998.

The population of South Africa is growing at a rate of 2 – 3% per annum and is expected to double during the next 30 – 40 years (DEAT 1999ⁱ). Wealth and quality of life indicators show great variation across and within provinces, mostly on the basis of population group.

The Western Cape and Eastern Cape provinces are very different. The Western Cape could be described as wealthy, urban, educated and with a relatively low population growth rate, while the Eastern Cape is poor, rural, poorly educated and with a relatively high

population growth rate (Idasa 1999). Obviously, these are generalisations. Table 3 shows the key population statistics of South Africa and compares it with the Western Cape and Eastern Cape.

Table 3. Key population statistics (SSA: 1998).

INDICATOR	SOUTH AFRICA	WESTERN CAPE	EASTERN CAPE
Area	1 219 090 km ² 122 million ha	129 386 km ² (10,6%)	169 580 (13,9%)
Population (1995 survey)	42 million	3,7 million (SSA) 4,4 million (Wesgro)	6,6 million
% of total population		10%	16%
Population Growth Rate (average 1980 – 1995)	2,4%	1,7%	2,6%
Human	0.677	0.826	0.507

Development Index (1991)			
Adult literacy	82%? (old stat excl TBVC?)	95 %	61 %
Population under 17 years	43%	36%	50%
Life expectancy at birth (1991)	64	68	61
HIV/Aids (antenatal) 1997	17%	6%	13%
Infant mortality per 1000	56	25	57
Poverty Rate		18 %	62 %
Unemployment rate	29%	18 - 19 %	42 %

Per capita income	R5 886 (1994) R2 206 (1995)	R9 104 (1994) R14 000 (1995)	R2 626 (1994)
GDP	R400 billion	14,1 % of national	7,6 % of national
Rural population	19 million	0,5 million	4 million
Urbanisation rate	54%	85 - 90 %	37%

b) Economic considerations

By African standards, South Africa is a wealthy country. Although South Africa covers only 3% of the surface area of Africa, it accounts for approximately 40% of all industrial output and 25% of gross domestic product (GDP). However, this wealth is highly concentrated geographically and in terms of population groups, with rural incomes generally being 50% lower than urban incomes.

The most affluent 20% of households receive 65% of total income (DEAT 1999).

In terms of average provincial and national economic and social indicators, the Western Cape is one of the wealthiest provinces, while the Eastern Cape is one of the poorest. However, the south-western district of the Eastern Cape is in reality very similar to the Western Cape, environmentally, socially, politically and economically. These averages mask large inequalities within the

provinces, particularly between rural and urban areas, and within metropolitan areas. Immigration into the Western Cape, especially the Cape Metropolitan Area, is driven partly by the poor social and economic conditions in the hinterland of the Eastern Cape and partly by the high quality of life and opportunities offered to skilled workers, which attracts relatively wealthy people from Europe and Gauteng. Manufacturing, trade, community services, finance, transport and agriculture are the most important economic sectors and are assisted to a significant extent by government policy.

3.6 CURRENT LAND USE CONTEXT

3.6.1 Land Ownership

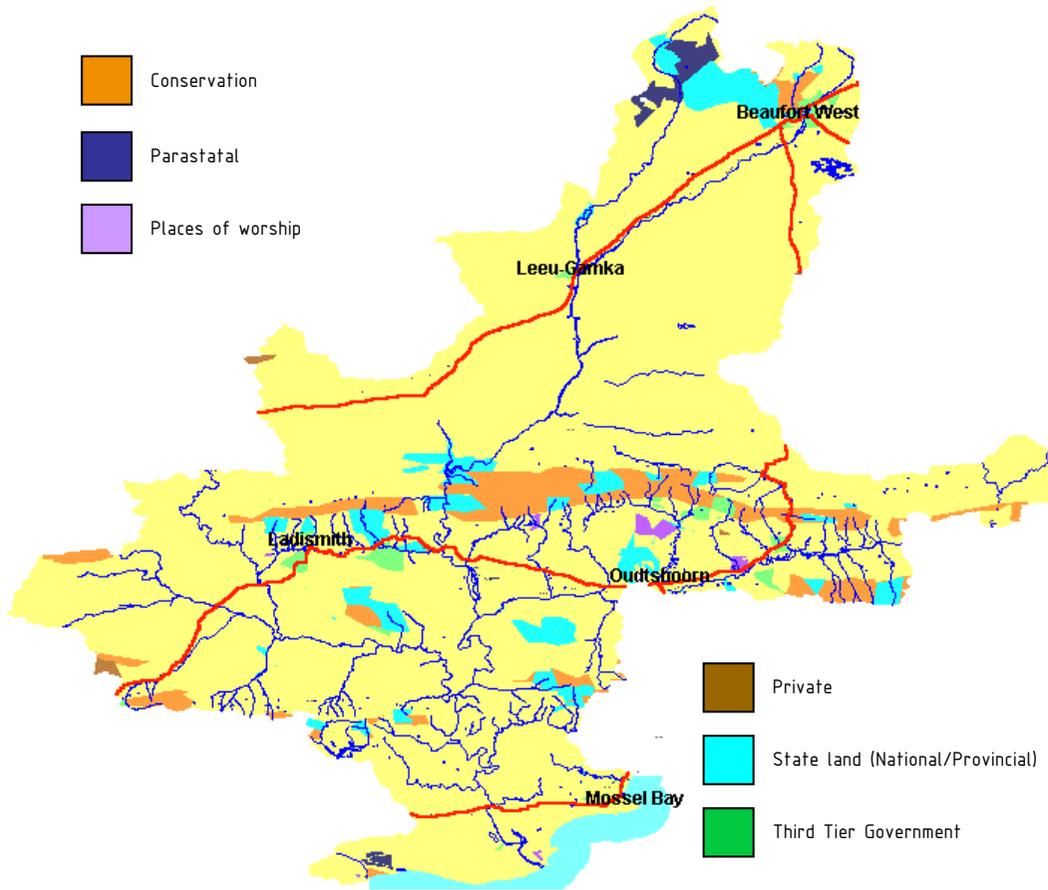


Figure 18: Land Ownership (DEAT 2002/3)

3.6.2 Land Use

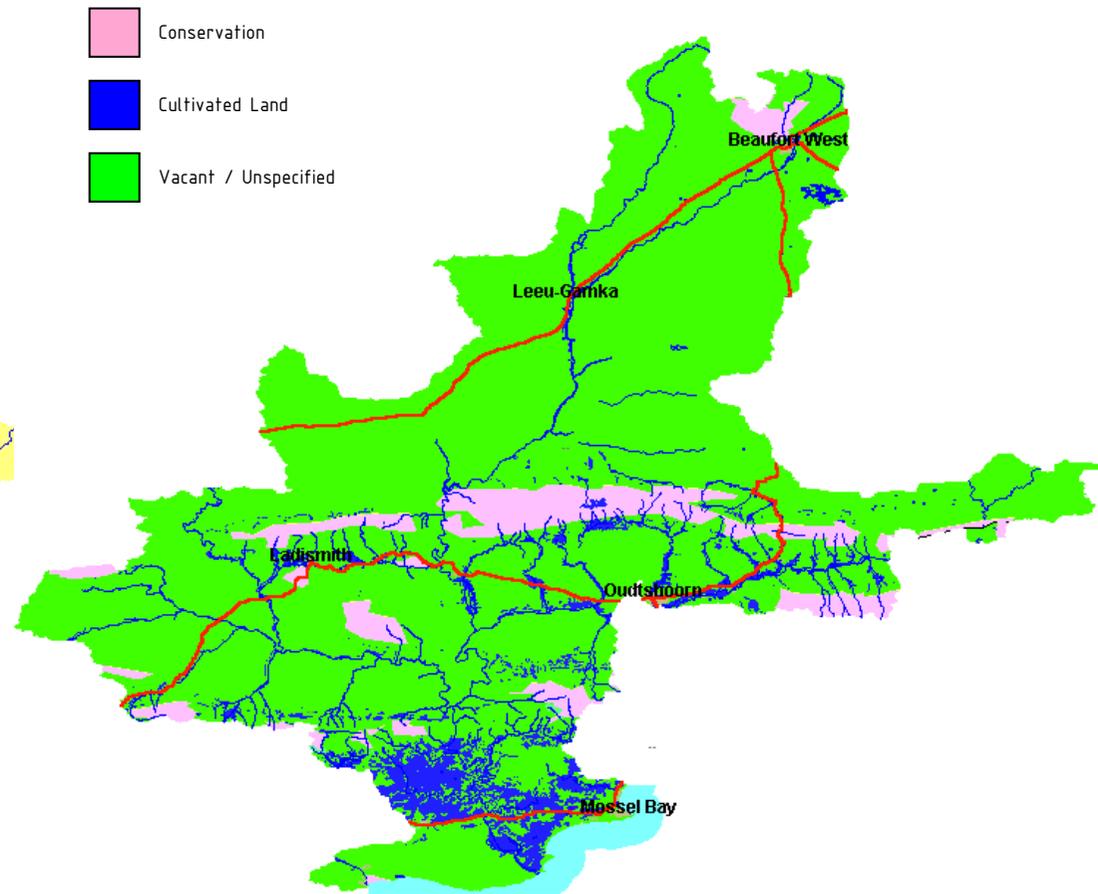


Figure 19: Land Use (DEAT 2002/3)

3.7 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

Central to the objectives of the enabling legislation is the promotion of sustainable development, which enquires that, the three imperatives for achieving sustainable development, namely, social, economic and environmental, be promoted in a balanced manner.

A decisively important principle, which underlines economic development, is the broadening of economic base of a region (which is a fundamental government policy). Optimum development, furthermore, originates in sound and sustainable economic performance (economic efficiency), which requires the optimal utilization of the cooperative economic advantages of a region.

Sustainable development requires specific institutional capacity, and for the development process to be successful, communities must be empowered to create, manage and maintain their own development programmes. This capacity must be structured and channelled into the community institutions (through for example IDPs of local authorities).

A number of statutes make provision for the above requirements, the primary of which are listed below. Table 6 summarises the statutes that are of direct relevance to the planning and development of the area.

Table 4: Relevant legislation

ACT	RELEVANCE AND IMPLICATIONS
South African Constitution, 1996 (Act 108 of 1996)	Promoting sustainable development by compelling government to pass legislation to promote sustainable social and economic development.
Development Facilitation Act, 1995 (Act 67 of 1995)	Making provision for the general principles relating to land development and land development objectives. Ensuring that integrated land development is promoted, while taking into account social, economic, institutional and physical aspects of land development, and ensuring that environmentally non-sustainable land development practices are discouraged.
Local Government Municipal Structures Act, 1998 (Act 117 of 1998)	Providing a framework within which the private sector and municipalities can work together to promote common interests. Of particular interest is the provision made for development orientated planning and the need for development action to be aligned with integrated development plans.
Local Government Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act 32 of 2000)	Giving effect to the country's vision of developing local government, building on the constitutional provisions for basic development rights. The act elaborates on the core principles, mechanisms and processes that are necessary to enable municipalities to move progressively towards the social and economic upliftment of communities within the municipal area, working in partnership with the municipality's political and administrative structures.
Western Cape Planning and Development Act, 1999 (Act 7 of 1999)	Providing principles for sustainable development and environmental conservation.
Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act 73 of 1989)	Requirements to manage the biophysical economic and social resource of the country. Regulates the activity and the permitting process regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ The protection of ecological processes, biophysical beauty as well as the protection of the biophysical environment. ❑ The promotion of sustained utilisation of species and ecosystems and the effective application and reuse of biophysical resources. ❑ The establishment, maintenance and improvements of environments, which contribute to a generally acceptable quality of life.
Development Facilitation Act, 1995 (Act 67 of 1995)	Measures to facilitate and speed up the implementation of reconstruction and development programmes and projects in relation to land.

ACT	RELEVANCE AND IMPLICATIONS
National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998)	To facilitate social and economic development Providing for growing demand of water use Protection of aquatic and associated ecosystems Reducing and preventing pollution and degradation of water resources. Managing floods and droughts. To achieve this, to establish suitable institutions and to ensure that they have appropriate community, racial and gender representation.
Water Services Act, 1997 (Act 108 of 1997)	Provision of the right of access to basic water supply and sanitation. Provision of a regulatory framework for water services institutions. Provision for the establishment and disestablishment of water boards. Provision of financial assistance to water services institutions. Acknowledging that there is a duty on all spheres of Government to ensure that water supply services and sanitation services are provided in an efficient, equitable and sustainable manner.
National Conservation Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998)	Serve as the general framework within which environmental management and implementation plans must be formulated. Ensures that environmental management must place people and their needs at the forefront of its concern and serve their – physical, psychological, development, cultural, social, interests equitably
National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999)	Introduce an integrated and interactive system for the management of the National Heritage Resources. Promoting the nurturing and conservation of local heritage resources. Introduction of an integrated system for the identification, assessment and management of National Heritage Resources.
Adult Basic Education and Training Act, 2000 (Act 52 of 2000)	Providing an institutional framework to devise and implement national, sector and work place strategies to develop and improve the skills of the work force.

ACT	RELEVANCE AND IMPLICATIONS
Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act 1983 (Act 43 of 1983)	Purpose of the act is to empower the Minister of Agriculture to take wide-ranging steps to protect the natural agricultural resource base of the country. In particular, it aims to combat and prevent soil erosion, protect water sources and combat invader plants and weeds
Tourism Act, 1993 (Act 72 of 1993)	It ensures the provision for the promotion of tourism. Measures are aimed at the maintenance and enhancement of standards of facilities and services hired out or made available to tourists.
National Roads Act, 1971 (Act 54 of 1971)	Provide for road traffic matters, which shall apply uniformly throughout South Africa.
National Forest Act	Purpose of the act is aimed at promoting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Sustainable management and development of forests. ❑ The restructuring of forestry in state forests. ❑ The sustainable use of forests. ❑ Community forestry ❑ Increased participation in forestry. ❑ Increased participation in forestry by disadvantaged persons.
Provision of Land and Assistance Act, 1993 (Act 126 of 1993)	Purpose of the act is to make available, privately or state-owned land to poor people who do not have land or secure tenure on land so that they can use the land for residential, agricultural or small business development purposes
Using Water for Recreational Purposes Policy, 2002	Defining government's overall and DWAF's particular responsibility regarding this water use and establishing the basic principles, aims and policy for regulating the use of water for recreational purposes.
National Environmental Management, 2002 (Act 56 of 2002)	Prevention and regulation of environmental damage
Health Act, 1977 (Act 63 of 1977)	Prevention of pollution of water for human consumption, regulations regarding communicable disease and relating to rubbish, nightsoil, nuisances, offences and penalties
White paper on Spatial Planning and Land use Management	The broad objective is to facilitate allocation of land to the uses that provide the greatest sustainable benefits and to promote the transition to a sustainable and integrated management of land resources.

ACT	RELEVANCE AND IMPLICATIONS
Health Act, 1977 (Act 63 of 1977)	Prevention of pollution of water for human consumption, regulations regarding communicable disease and relating to rubbish, nightsoil, nuisances, offences and penalties