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INSTITUTE FOR POVERTY, LAND AND AGRARIAN STUDIES (PLAAS)



Social Protests and Water Service Delivery in South Africa

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

PLAAS-WRC Water Currents Dialogue Seminar, Stone Cradle, Pretoria, 13 September 2013



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A place of quality,
a place to grow, from hope
to action through knowledge

Overarching Aims

To develop:

- Clear understandings of the linkage between social protests and water service delivery.
- An evaluation framework to enable government, municipalities and other stakeholders to more effectively address problems relating to social protests associated with water services delivery.

Research Objectives



KEY POINT 1

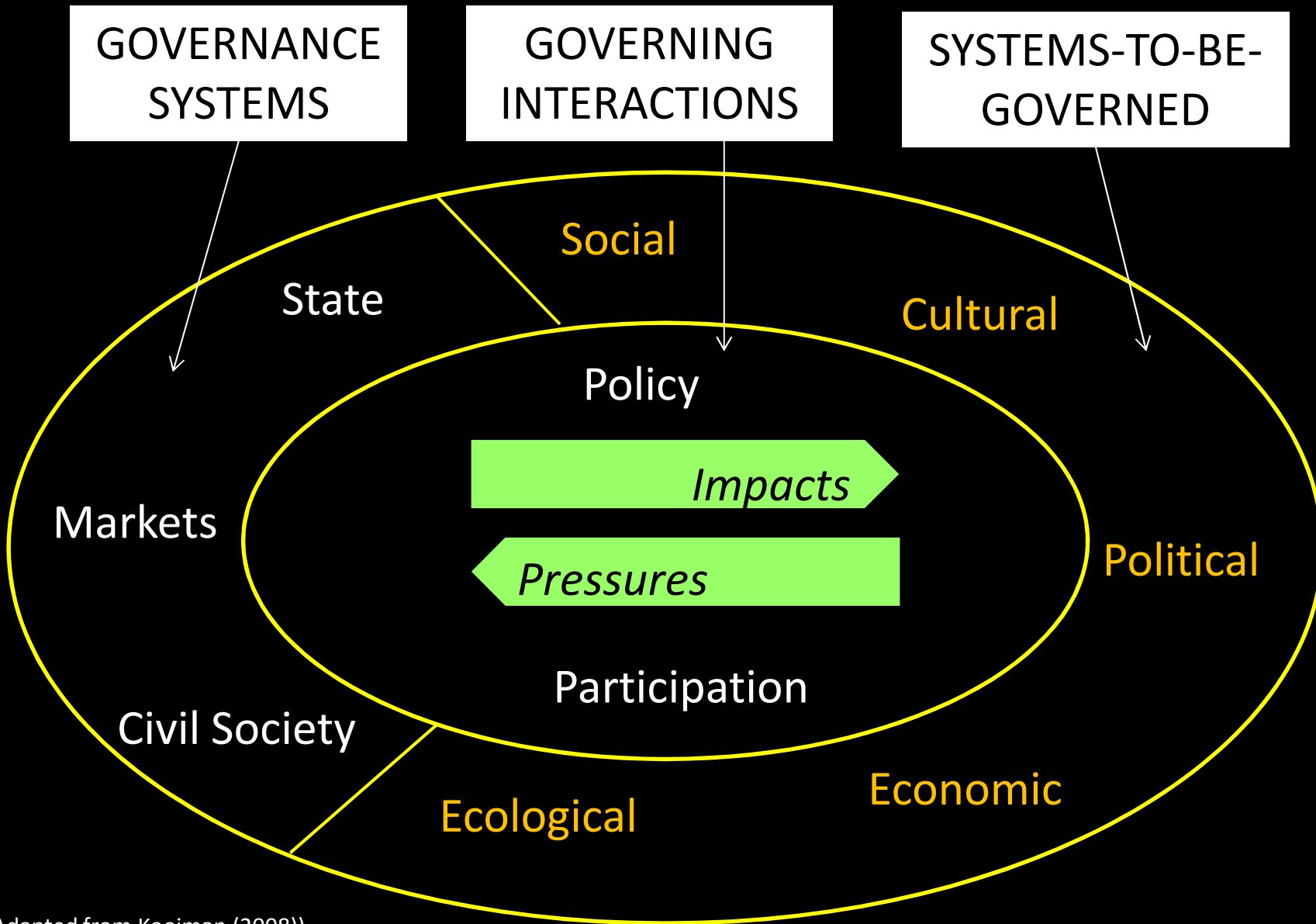
- ‘Social protests’ lens leaves out the majority of people who are affected by water service delivery issues but do not engage in protest **action**.
 - ‘Action’ distinguishes between various forms and types of protest.
 - ‘Action’ can also exclude coping strategies of groups with no agency or means to take protest action.

KEY POINT 2

- Protest action is largely an urban phenomenon. Violent protests tend to occur in low to middle income residential areas. But recent evidence shows increase in rural protests.
 - Differences between rural and urban contexts pose challenges to singular Evaluation Framework.
 - Urban emphasis raises ethical issue: marginalization of rural grievances

KEY POINT 3

- SA protests are complex, and thus require innovative methods of enquiry, amid politically charged terrains.
 - Constantly changing milieu
 - Diversity of contexts
 - Diversity of explanatory frameworks (eg theories)
 - Diversity, conflation and dynamism of grievance issues, actor networks & repertoires of contention.

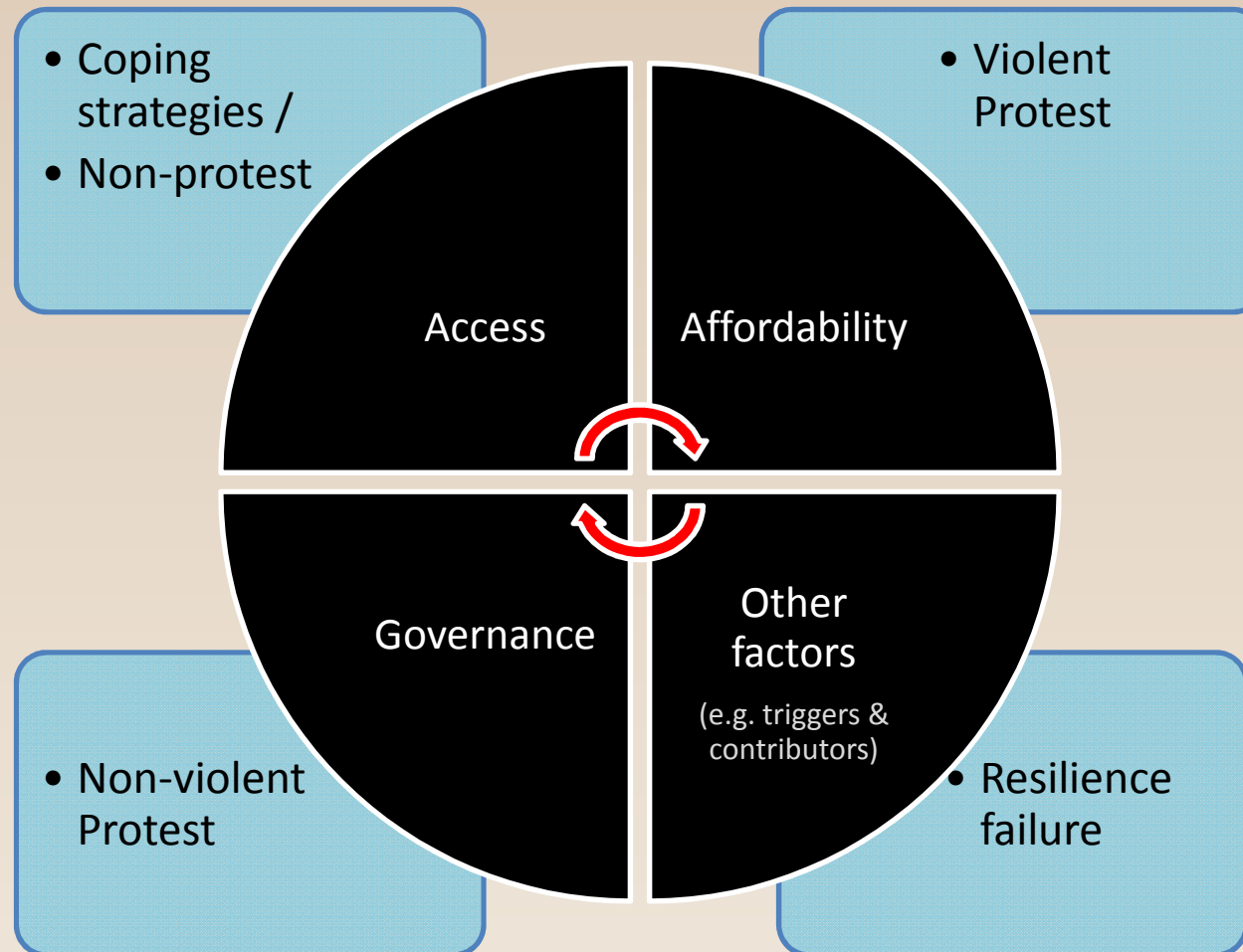


(Adapted from Kooiman (2008))

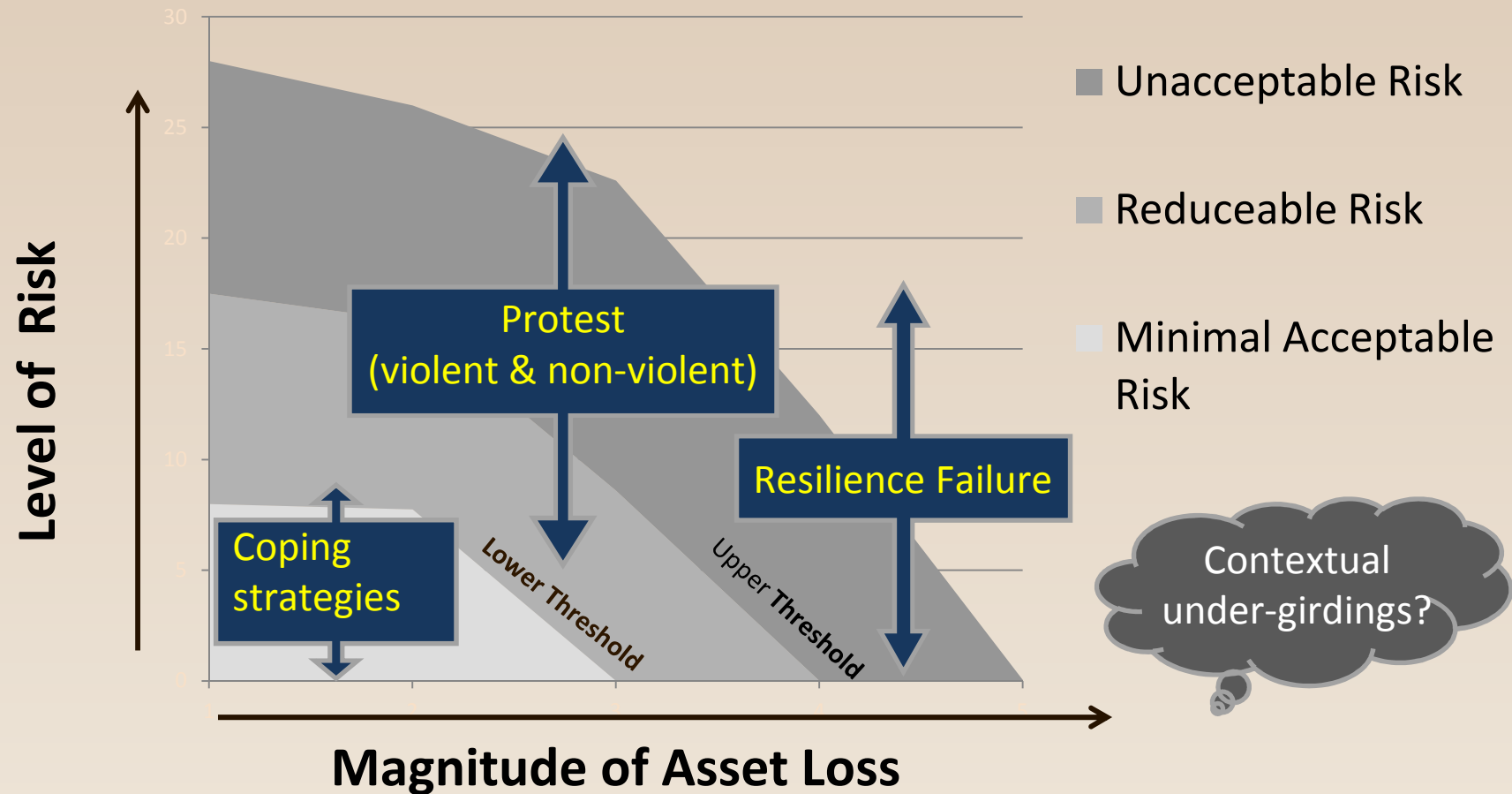
Protest Event Selection

- Direct, indirect and no association of protest events and water services delivery.
 - Problem: conflation, muting and masking
- Categories: violent, non-violent, non-protest.
 - PEA can reinforce, through exclusion, the silencing of those who cope or protest quietly.
- Migratory protests: How to deal with protests that migrate within people, who carry the same grievance from place to place throughout their lifetimes and act it out in seemingly disjointed protest events?

Towards multi-scenario building



Water security: Thresholds

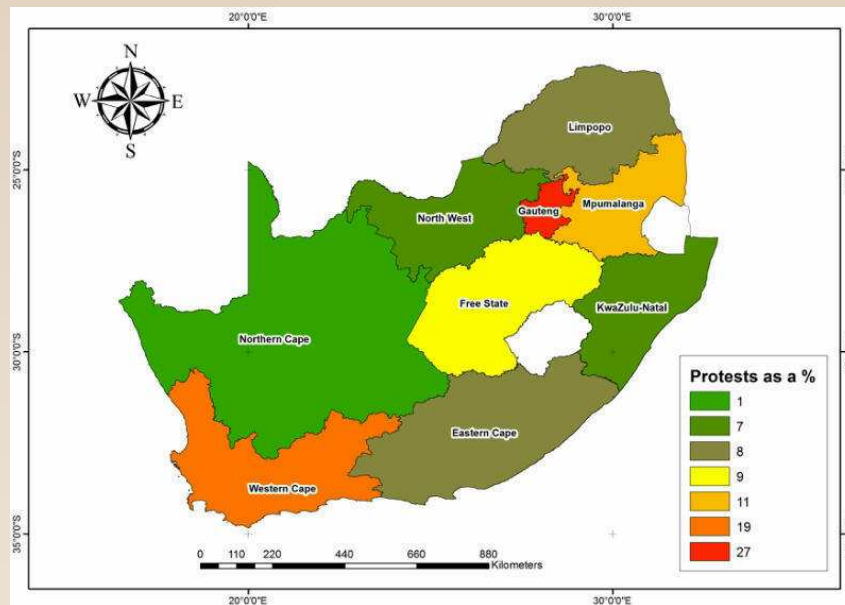


Frequency distribution of water service
delivery-related protest events
2005 - 2013

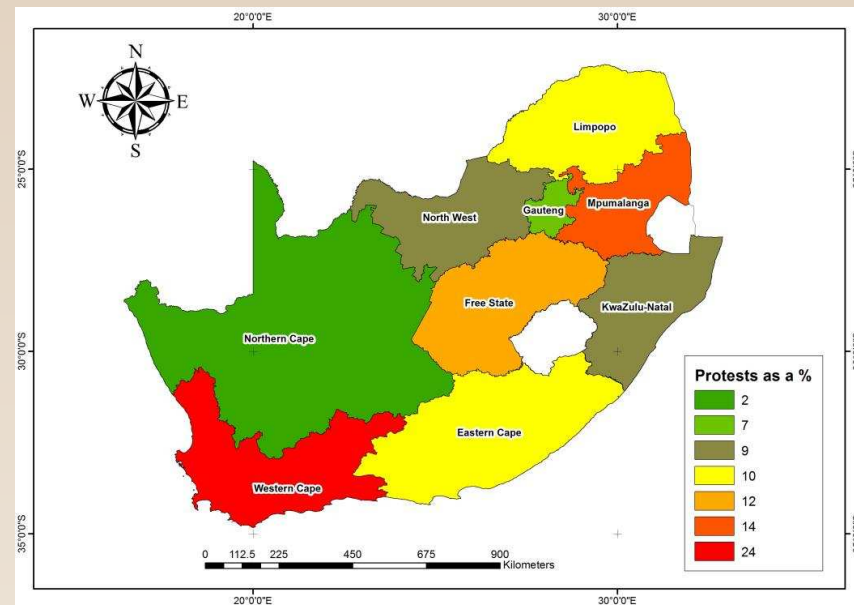
Based on Catalogue of Protest Events

Percentage frequency of water services related protest events by province

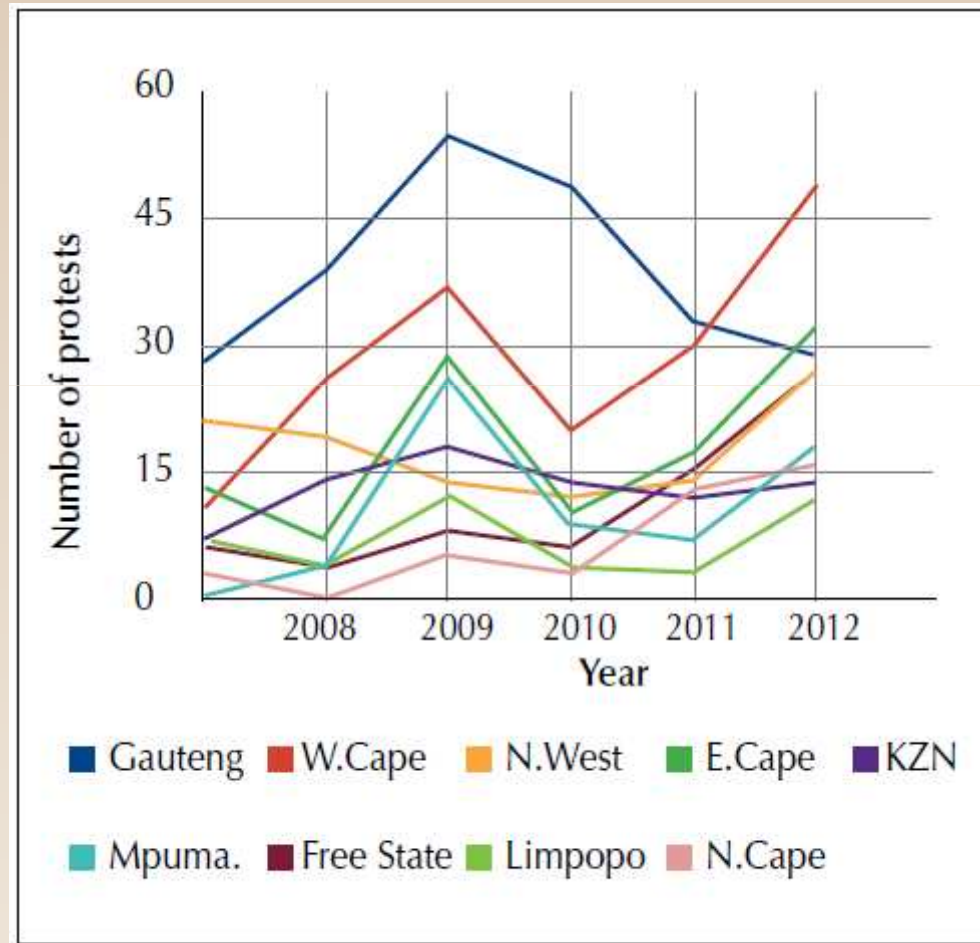
2005 to July 2013



2011 to July 2013



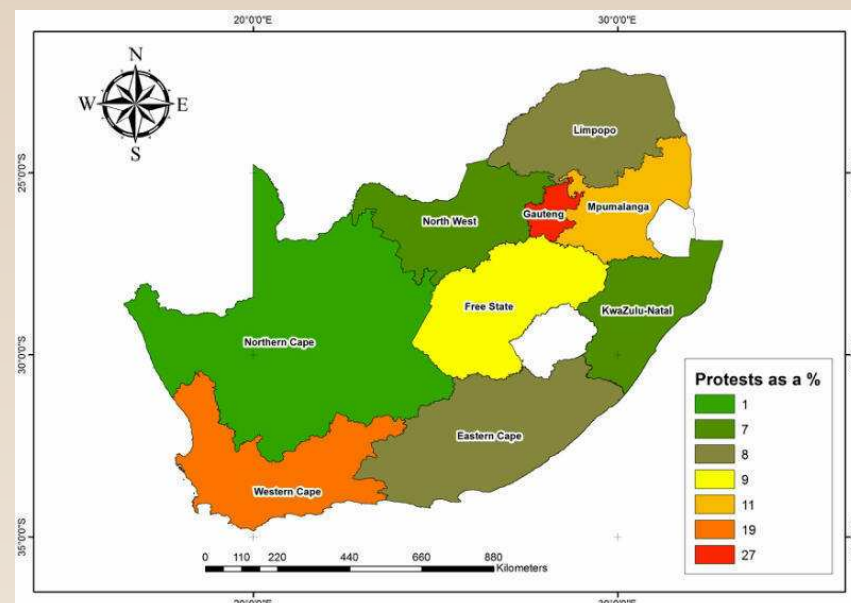
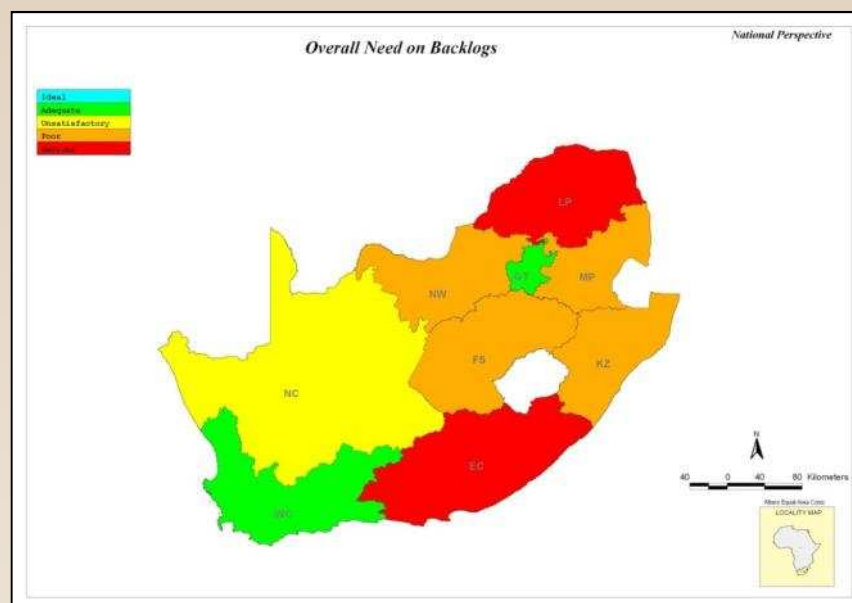
South Africa: Frequency of protests by province (MLGI, 2012)



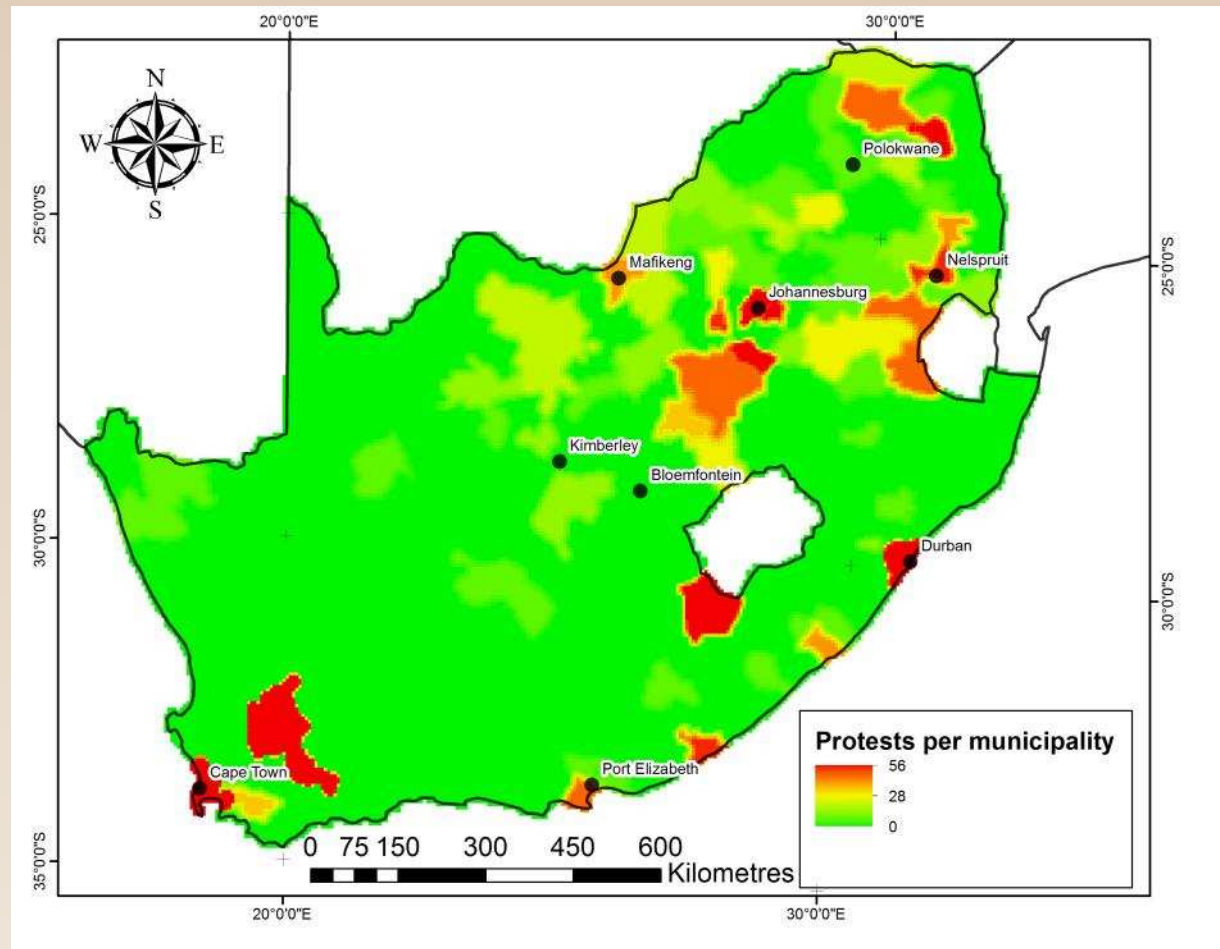
Comparison of water services needs and protests

Overall need, based on water services backlogs (DWA 2009)

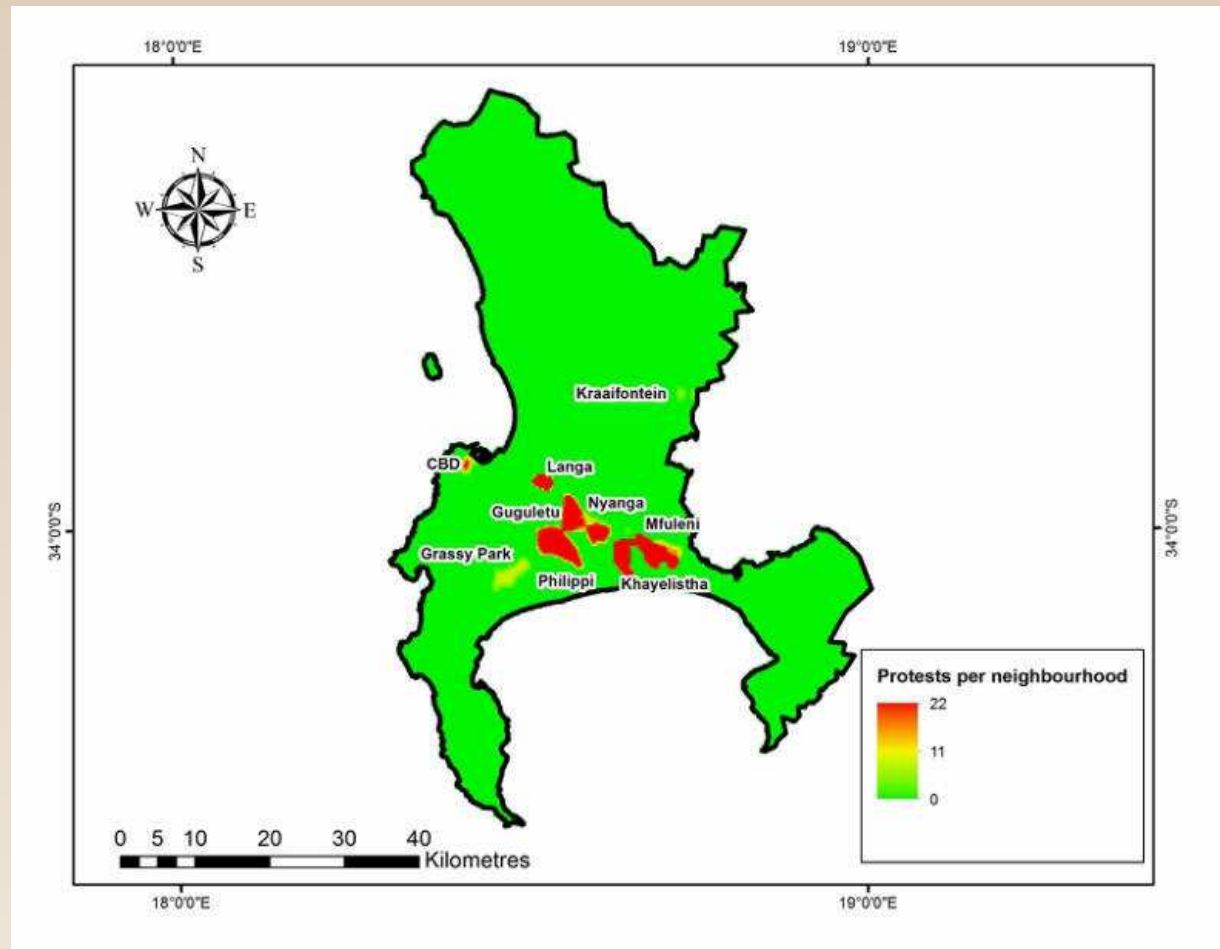
% Distribution of water services related protests (mostly 2005 - 2013)



Protest distribution by municipality: Hot and cold spots (2005 – 2013)

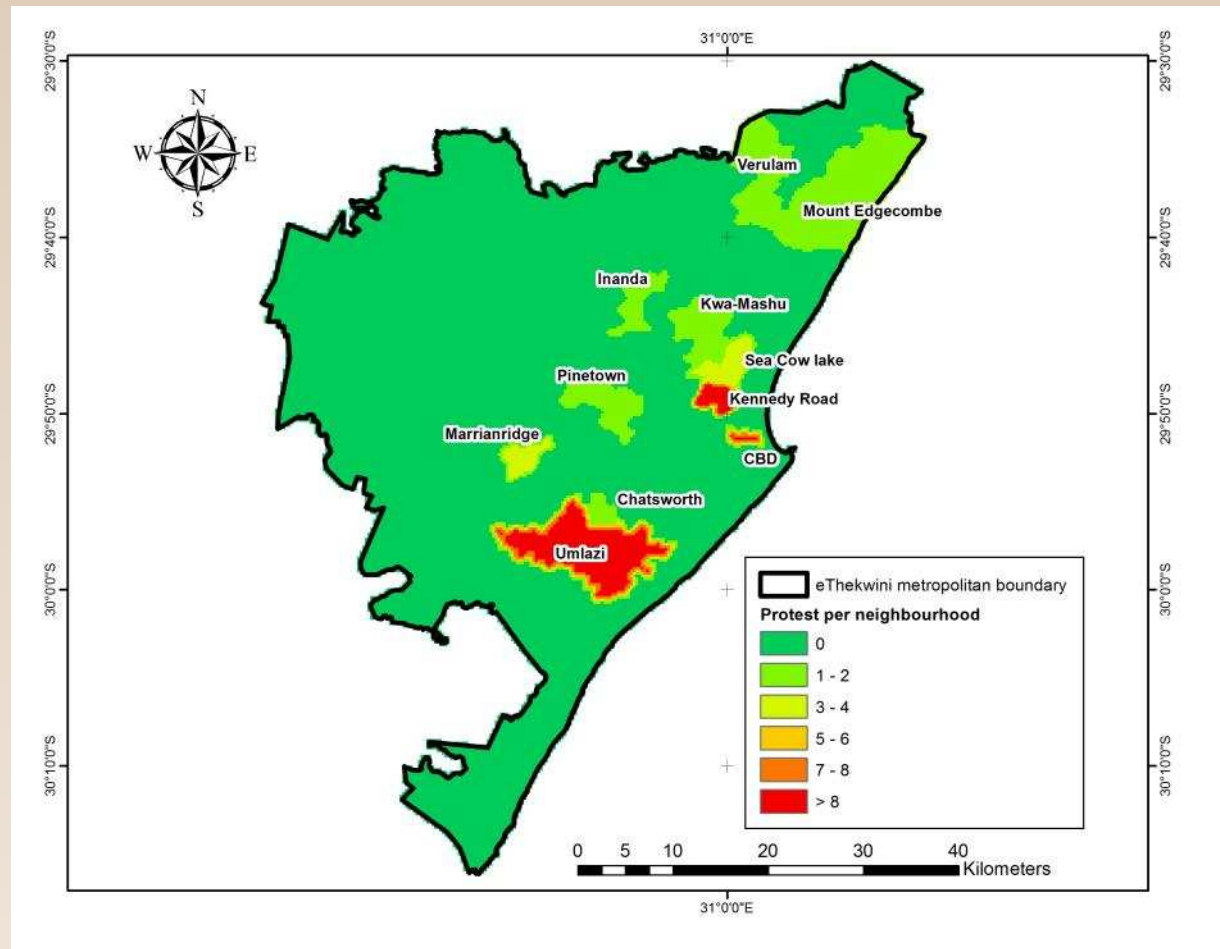


Cape Metropolitan Council: Frequency of water services-related protest events by Neighbourhood, 2005 - 2013



Seminar, 13 September 2013: Social protests and Water Service Delivery: Methodology, Dr Barbara Tapela, Institute for Poverty Land and Agrarian Studies

Ethekwini Metropolitan Council: Frequency of water services-related protest events by Neighbourhood, 2005 - 2013



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Cape Metropolitan Council: Frequency of water services-related protest events by Neighbourhood, 2010 – July 2013

