



UNIVERSITY of the
WESTERN CAPE
UNIBESITHI YOKWE
CZIZIFKZILLA yokuwo



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

Dr Barbara Nompumelelo Tapela

Senior Researcher, PLAAS



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

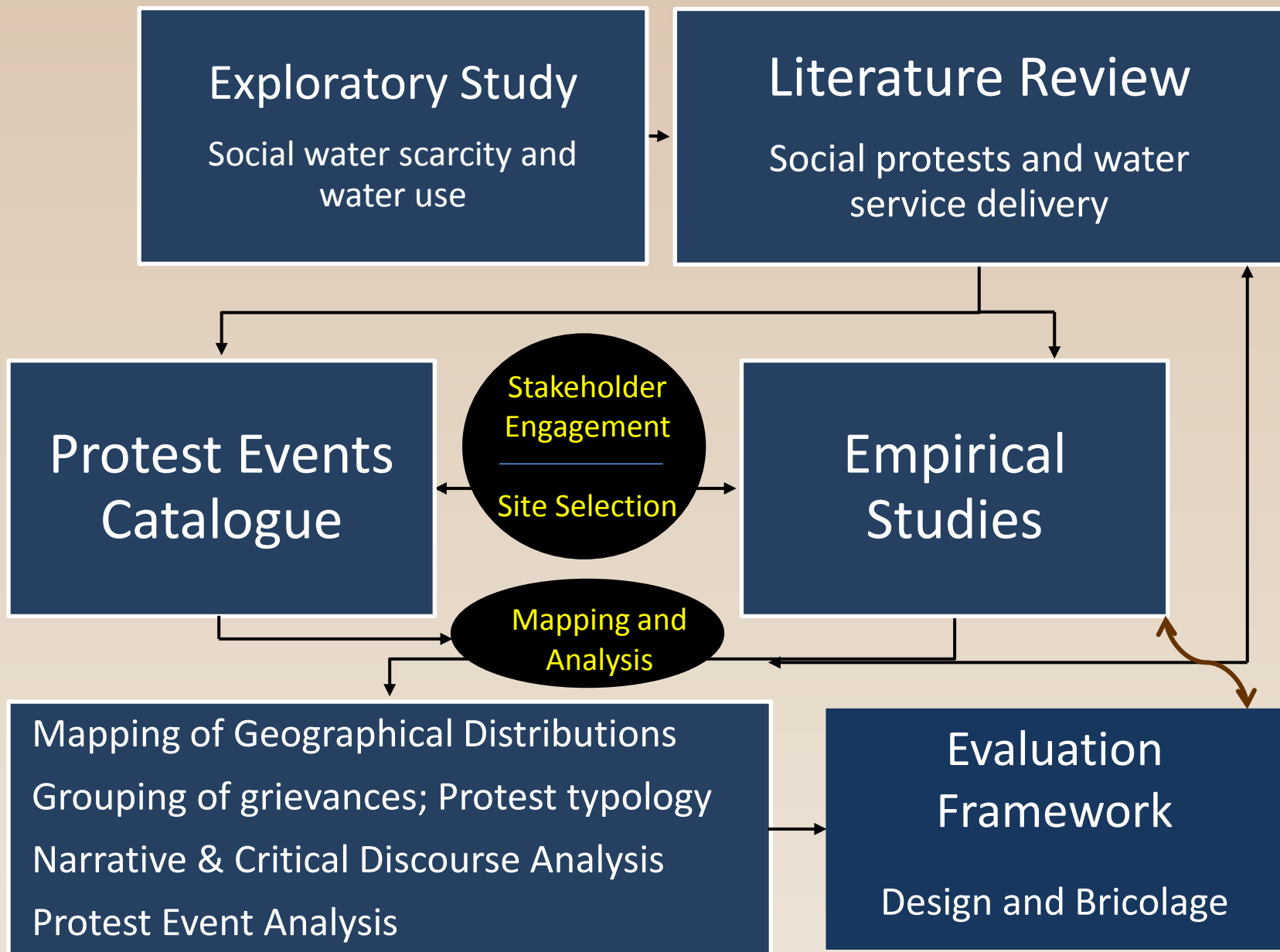
- ‘Social protests’ lens leaves out the majority of people who are affected by water service delivery issues but do not engage in protest **action**.
 - ‘Action’ distinguishes between various forms and types of protest.
 - ‘Action’ can also exclude coping strategies of groups with no agency or means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

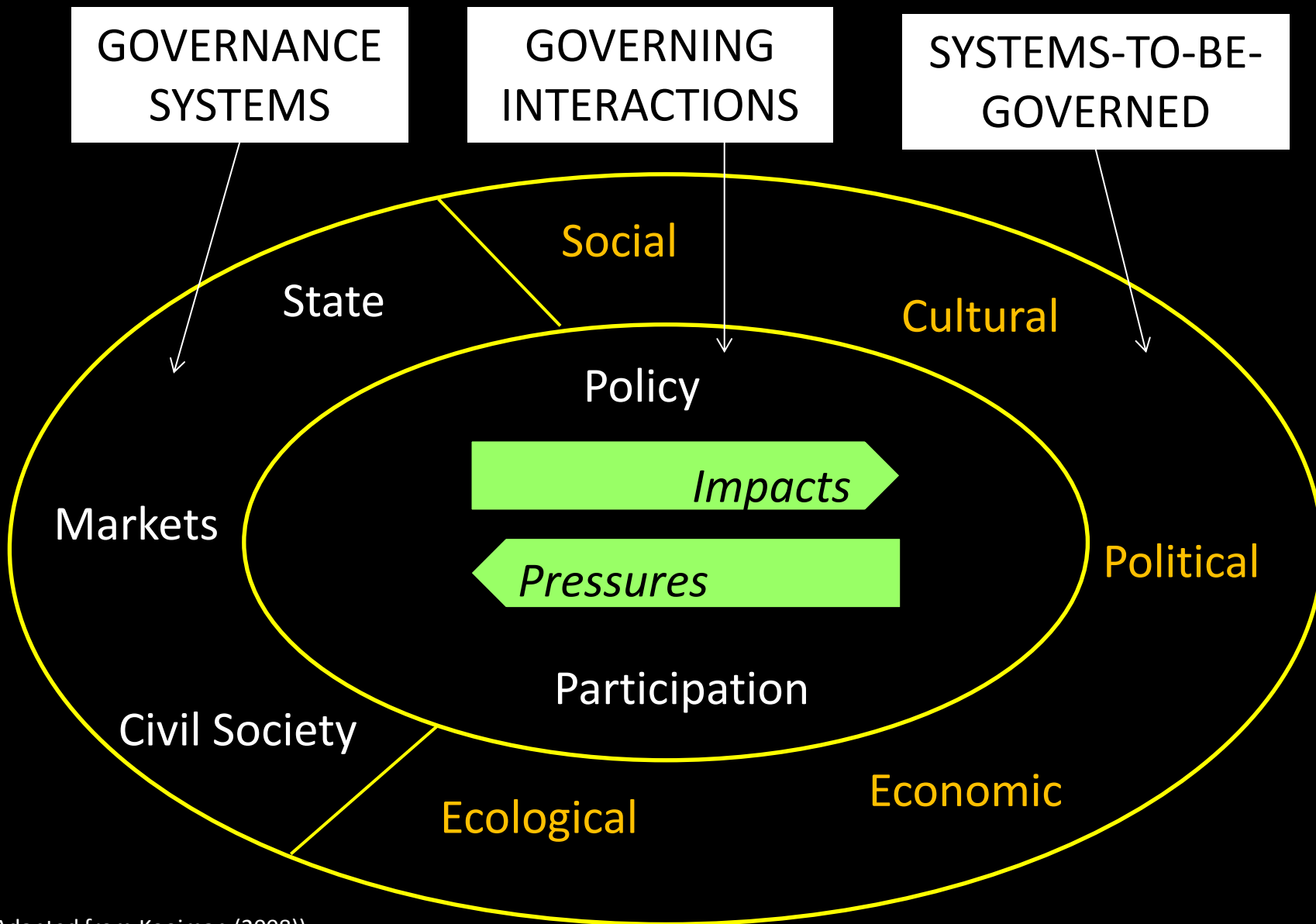
KEY POINT 2

- 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 focus 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))

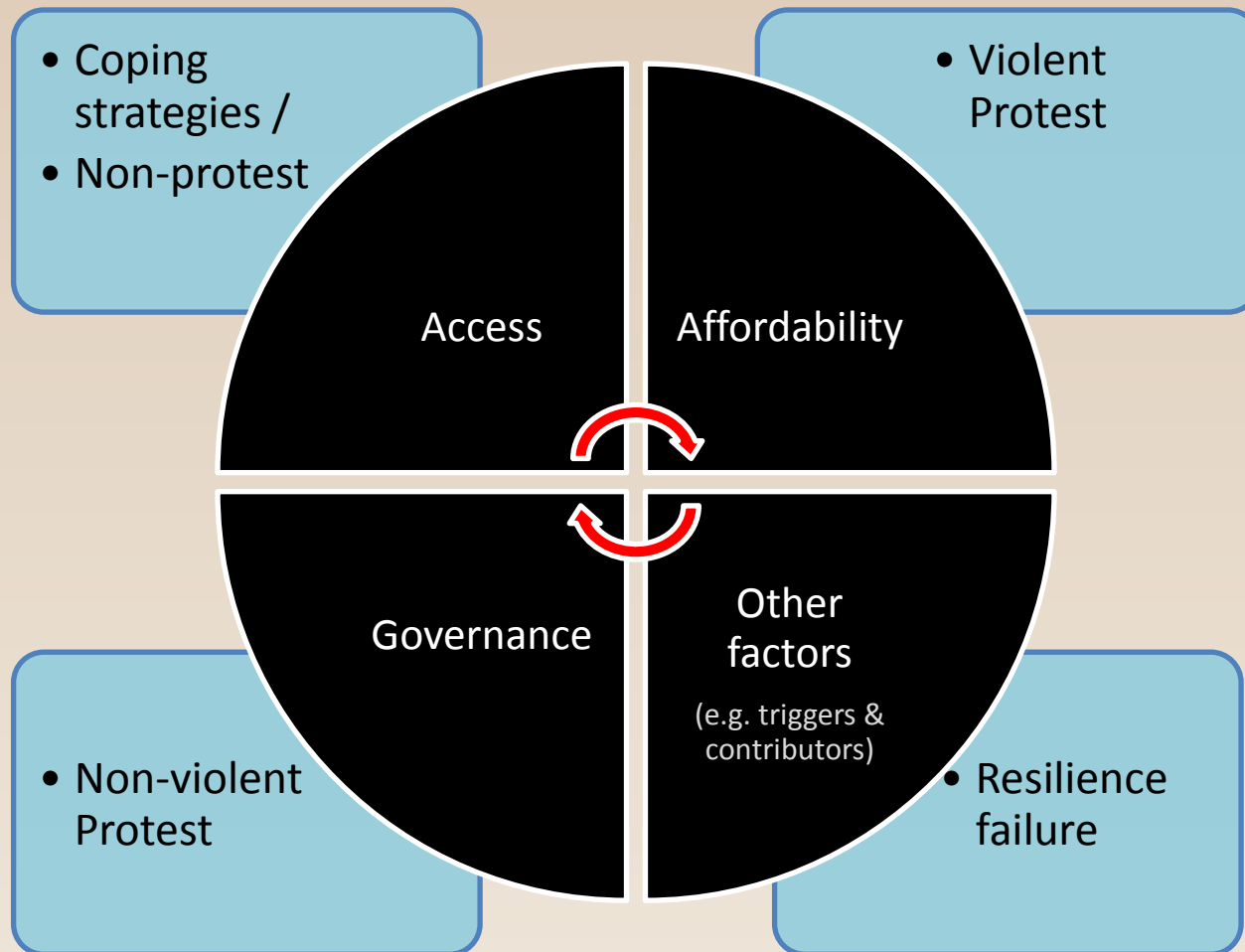
Protest Event Selection

- Direct, indirect and no relationship between 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 and act it out in seemingly disjointed protest events?

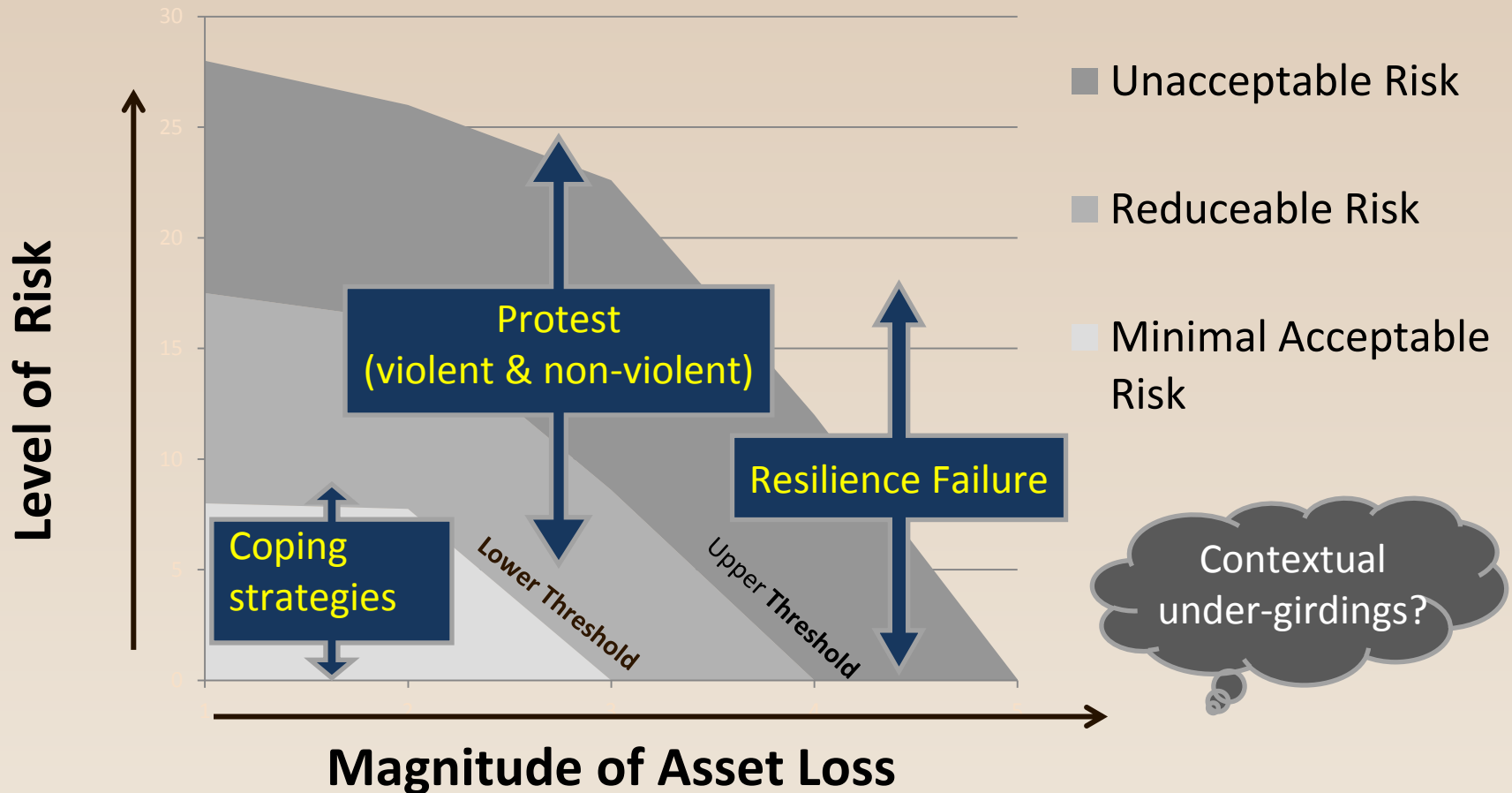
Evaluation Framework approach

- Indicator development
- Predictive modelling
- Scenario Building
- Challenge: Developing sufficiently flexible and robust evaluation framework applicable to varying contexts, especially rural and urban, and with practical applications for the co-governance of water service delivery.
- Possible dilemma: Citizenship monitoring roles versus constituency representation at local levels.

Towards multi-scenario building



Water security: Thresholds



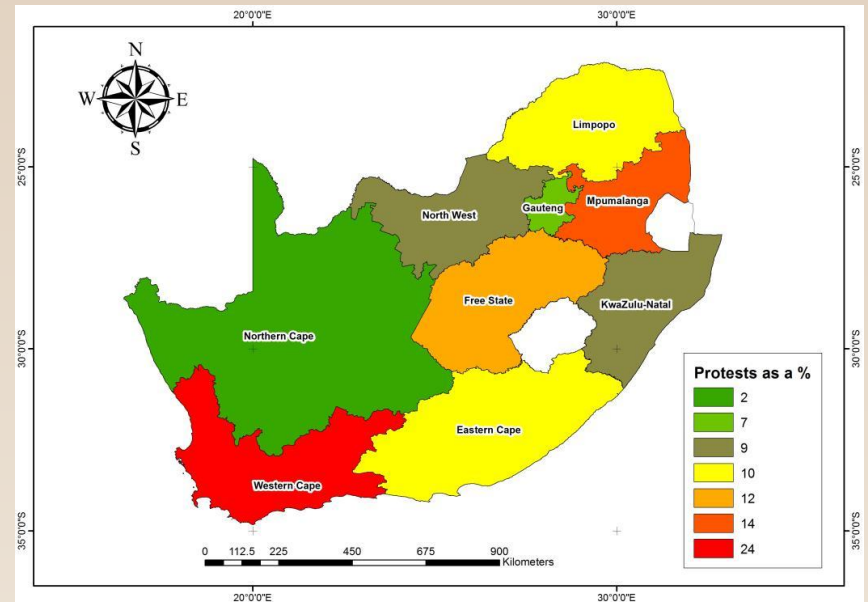
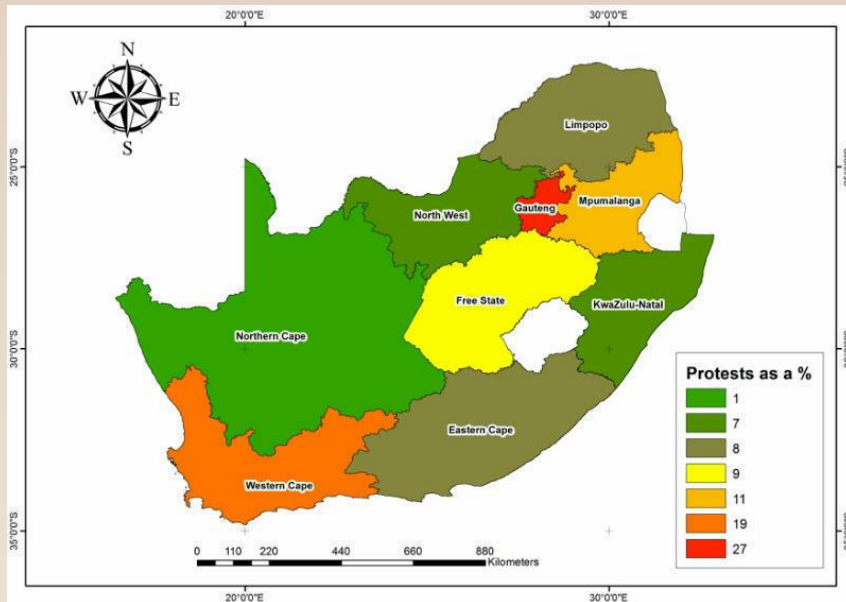
Frequency distribution of water service
delivery-related protest events
2005 - 2013

Based on Catalogue of Protest Events

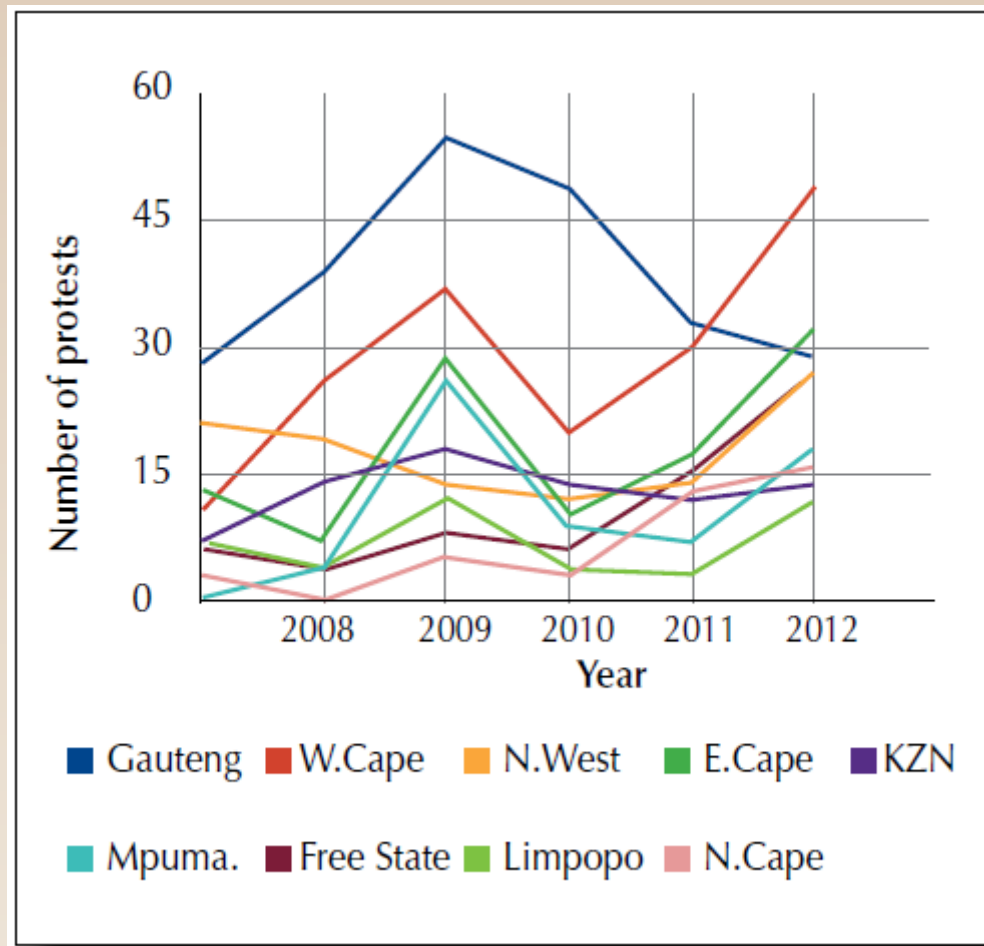
Percentage frequency of water services related protest events by province

2005 to July 2013

2011 to July 2013



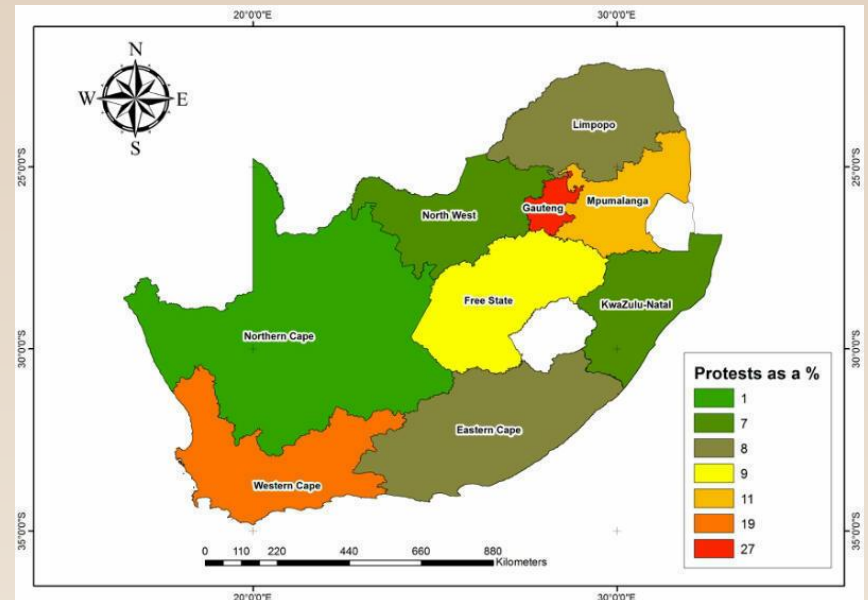
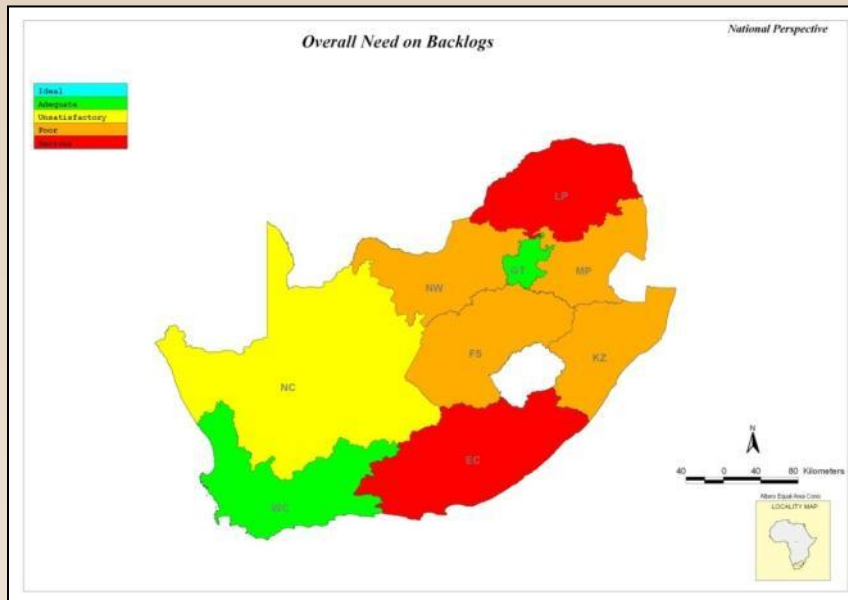
South Africa: Frequency of protests by province (MLGI, 2012)



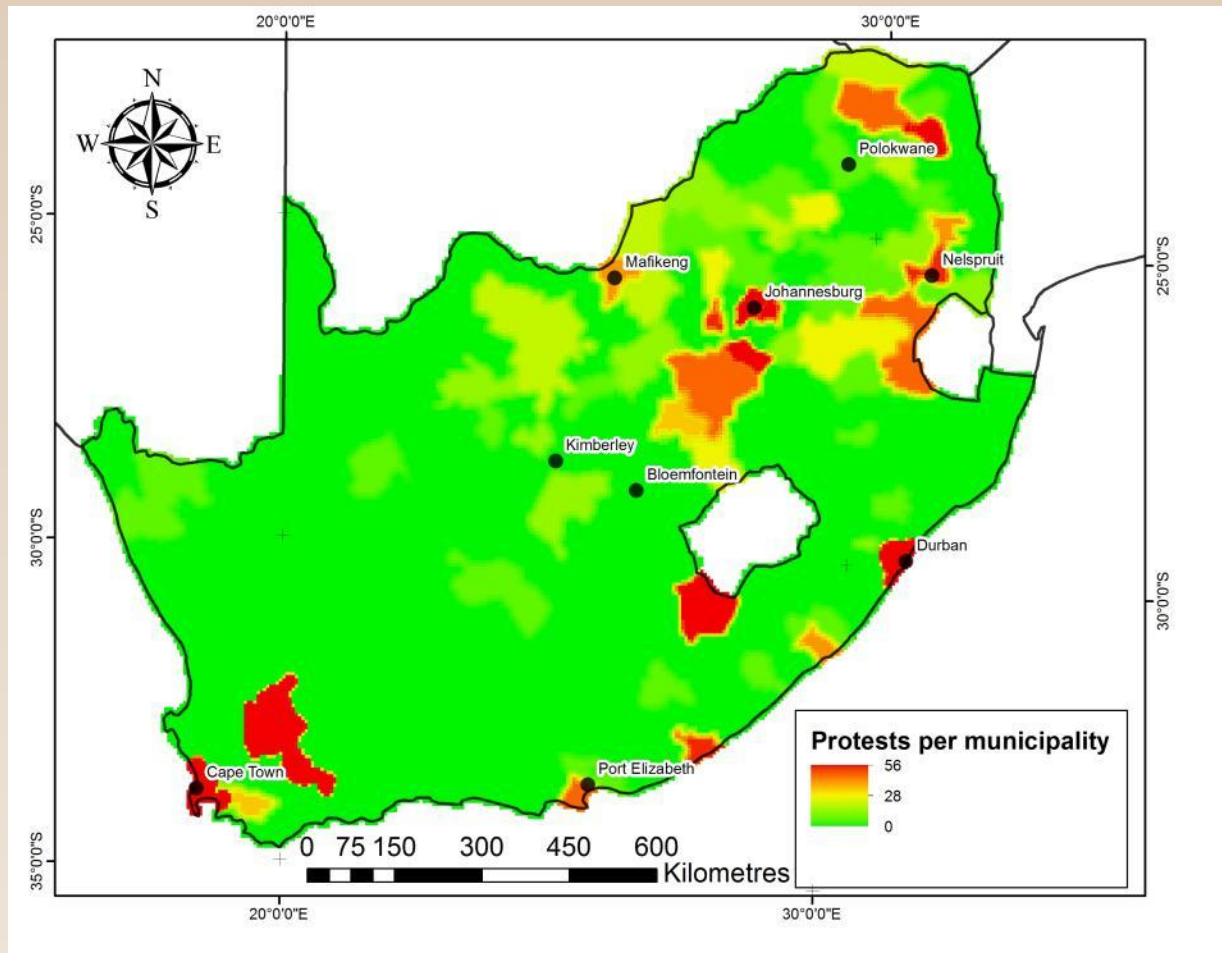
Comparison of water services needs and protests

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

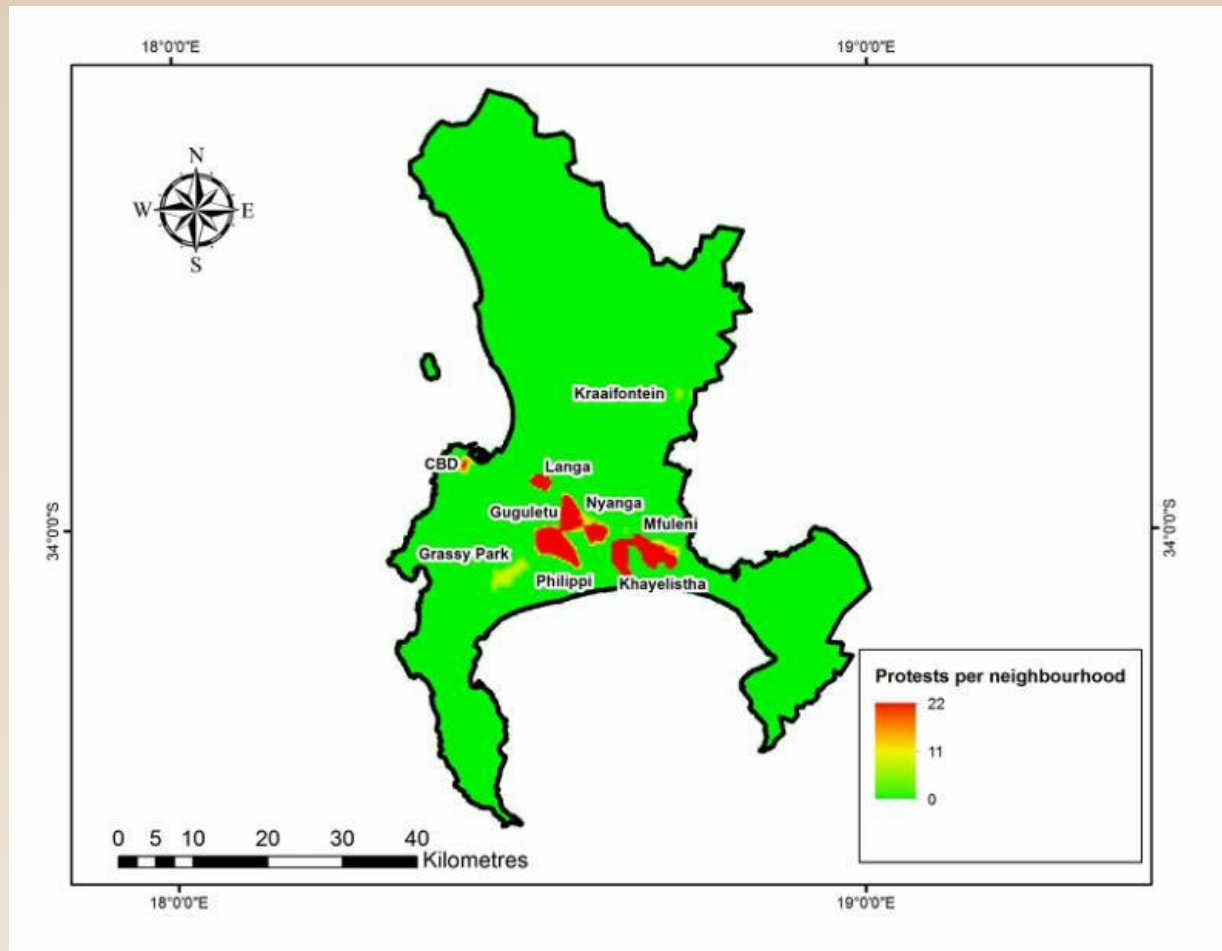
% Distribution of water services related protests (mostly 2005 - 2013)



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

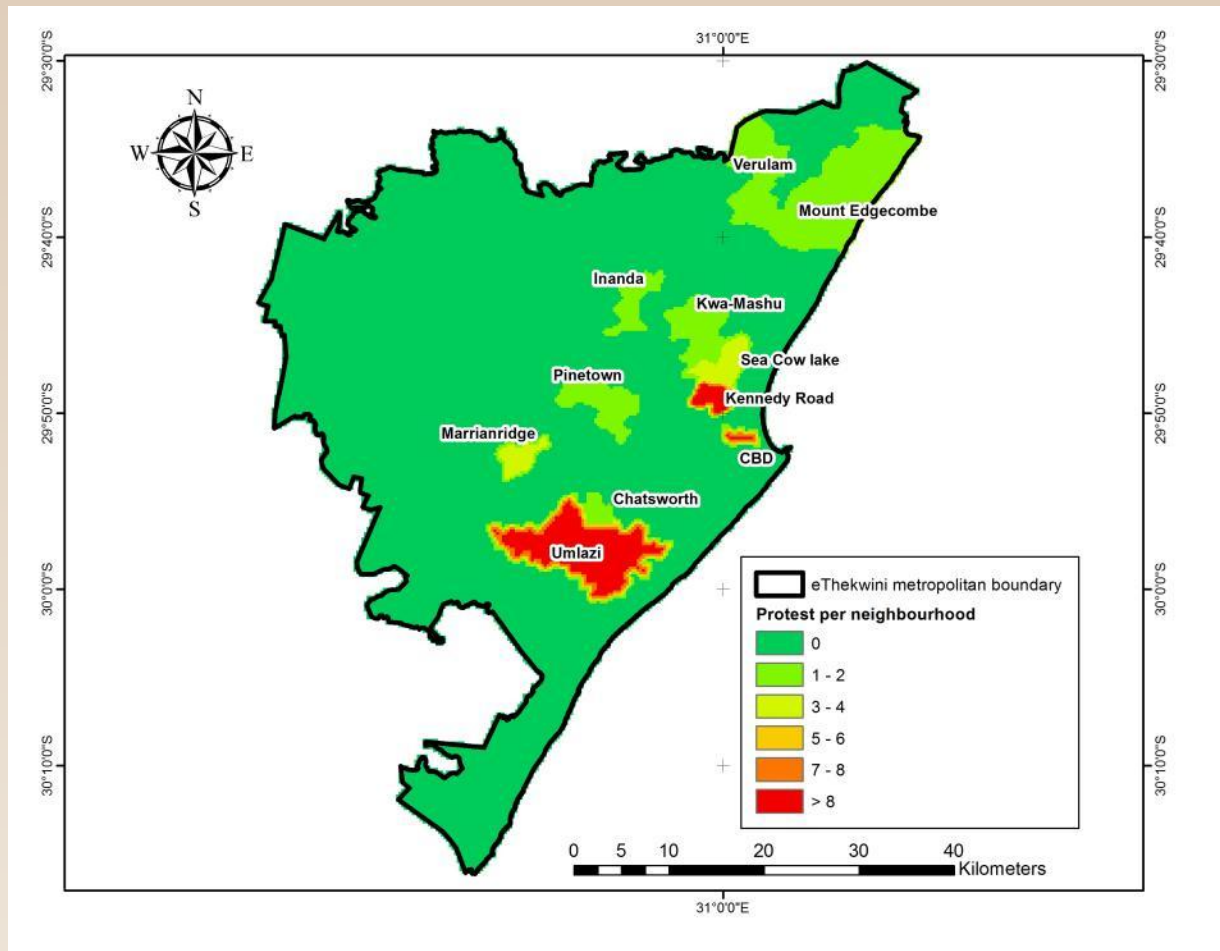


Cape Metropolitan Council: Frequency of water services-related protest events by Neighbourhood, 2005 - 2013



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



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

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

