



GLOBAL
RESEARCH
ALLIANCE

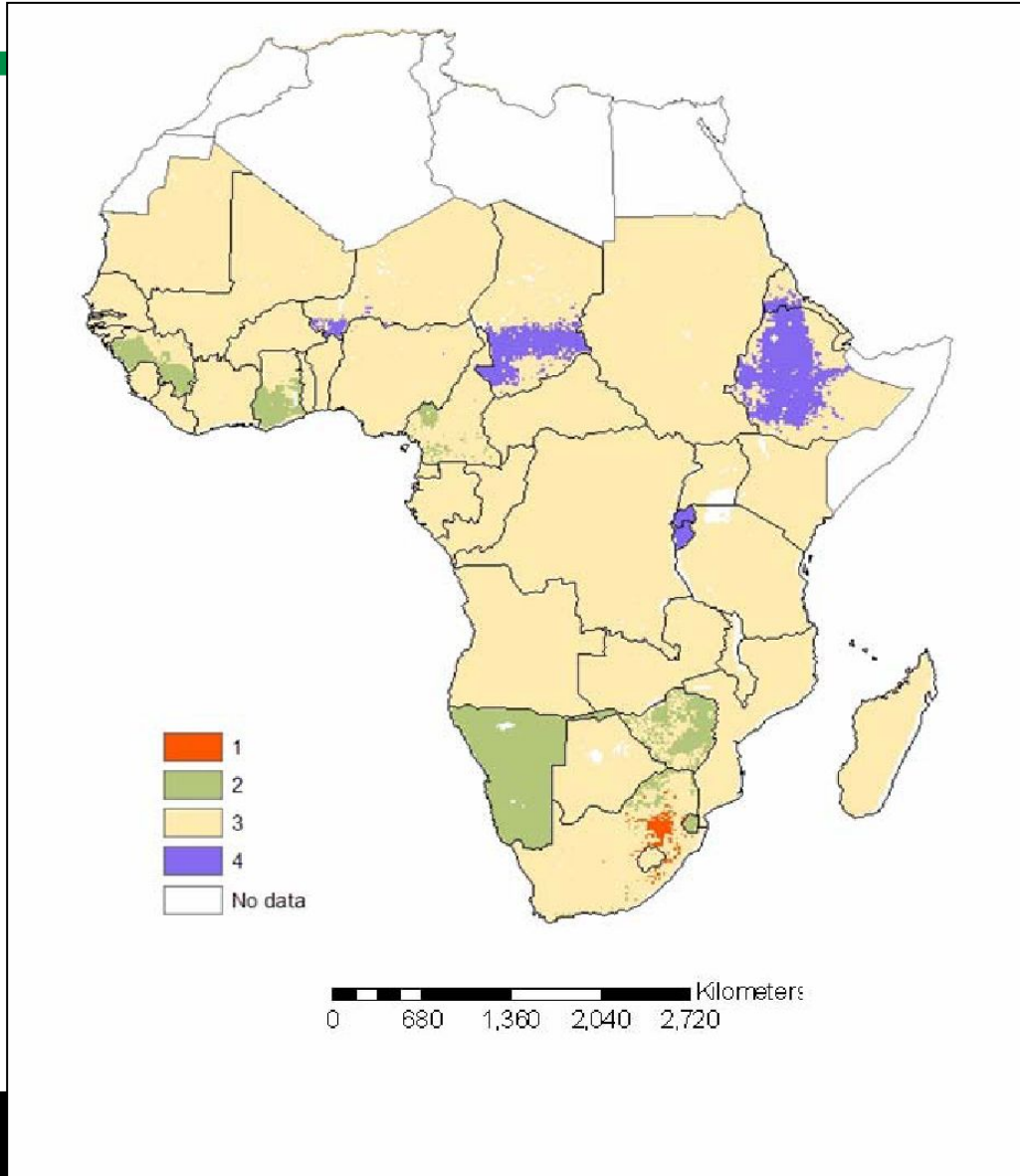
ON AGRICULTURAL GREENHOUSE GASES

Republic of South Africa



Input to 2023 Livestock Research Group Meeting
Lyon, France

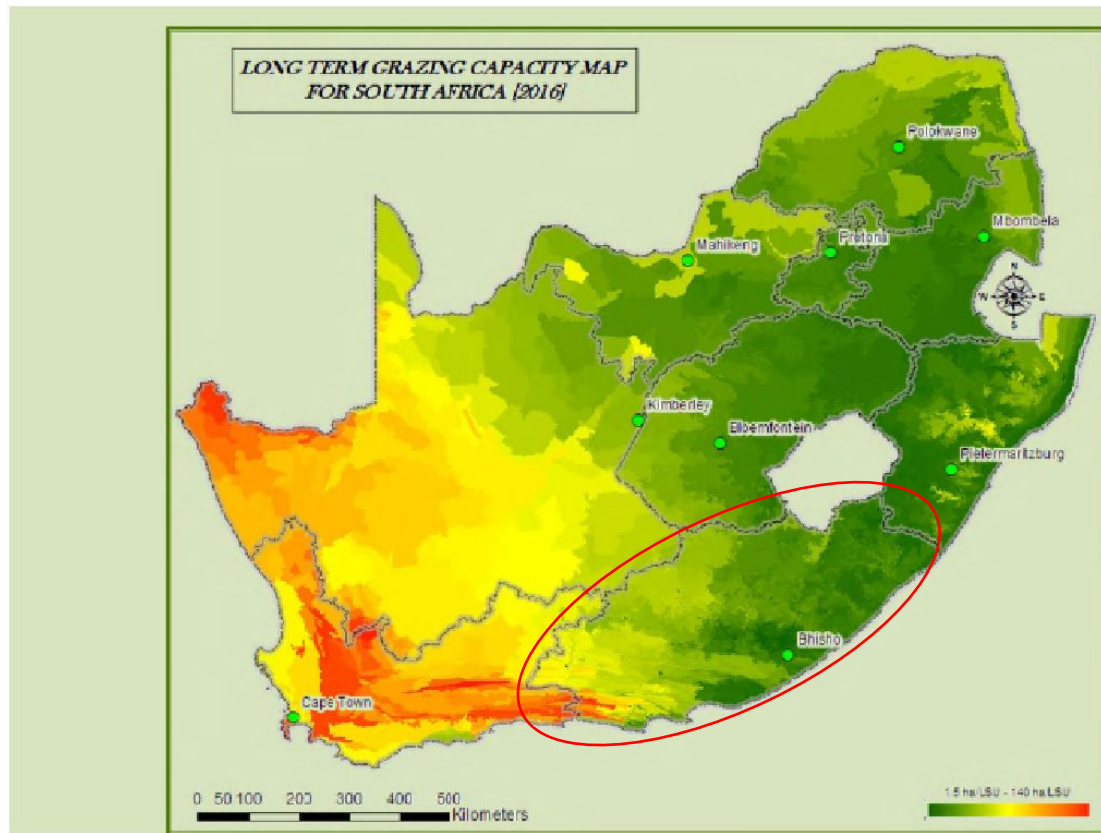
The climate change vulnerability of countries



Country-by-systems in sub-Saharan Africa, showing quartiles of an indicator of vulnerability to climate change (quartile 1, “less vulnerable” – quartile 4, “more vulnerable”)

South African Grazing capacity (ha/LSU)

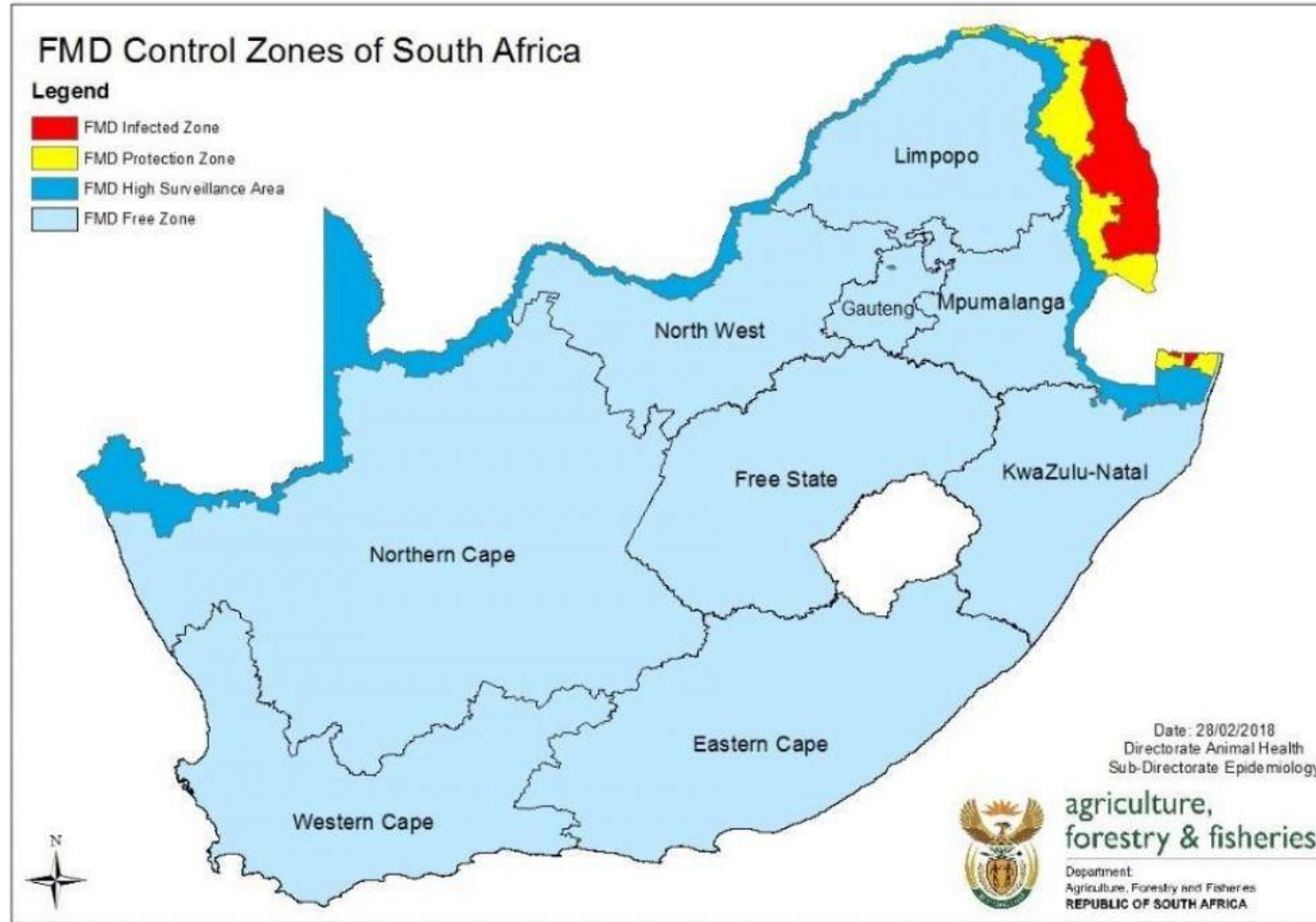
A number of animals a given area of grazing can carry without veld condition deterioration (Ha/Animal Unit or large stock unit)



| Province | Long term grazing capacity (ha/LSU) | | | Available (ha) | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|------|----------------|---------------|
| | Highest | Lowest | Mean | *Natural veld | % of Province |
| <i>Eastern Cape</i> | 1.5 | 130 | 10.8 | 10 818 640 | 82.03 |
| <i>Free State</i> | 2.5 | 24 | 7.5 | 6 530 962 | 66.78 |
| <i>Gauteng</i> | 4 | 20 | 6.8 | 698 179 | 52.14 |
| <i>KwaZulu-Natal</i> | 2 | 23 | 6.4 | 4 493 616 | 63.16 |
| <i>Limpopo</i> | 3 | 17 | 9.3 | 7 657 939 | 84.20 |
| <i>Mpumalanga</i> | 2.5 | 11 | 6 | 3 684 679 | 65.51 |
| <i>Northern Cape</i> | 7 | 140 | 33.3 | 27 894 251 | 98.49 |
| <i>North-West</i> | 5 | 25 | 9.6 | 5 845 092 | 75.54 |
| <i>Western Cape</i> | 12 | 140 | 49.7 | 8 322 170 | 81.59 |

* Extracted from National Land Cover data set 2013/14

FMD Control Zones



Relevant activities

- *The effect of crossbreeding on the carbon footprint of beef production*
- *The Farm gate carbon and water footprint of diverse beef cattle genotypes*
- *The methane reduction from ruminants by feed inclusion of tannin rich plants*
- *Mitigation of heat stress effects on ruminants with feed additives*
- *Training and information sharing with rural farmers*
- *Research on drought resilient forages for livestock*

Future priorities

- *Carbon, methane and water footprint of extensive beef cattle production on natural grazed rangeland*
- *Quantification of the effect of heat stress on milk production, methane emissions, udder health and milk composition for the development of adaptation and mitigation strategies*
- *Improving feed digestibility of animal feeds*
- *[Insert description of activities]*
- *[Insert description of activities]*
- *[Insert description of activities]*

Capability needs

- *Acquisition of two GreenFeed systems to measure methane and metabolic carbon dioxide emissions under normal production conditions in cattle*
- *Establishing of GHG measuring metabolic houses for large livestock and related personnel capacity*
- *Genomic manipulation of microbiota involved in methane production*
- *Genomic selection for low methane production*
- *[Insert description of capability needs]*
- *[Insert description of capability needs]*