

Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality in South Africa by 2030

South Africa's Sustainable Land Management Programme aims at reducing and rehabilitating degraded land

by Laura Quast



Local

THE OUTCOMES

1: IMPROVED NATURAL RESOURCES

Local responsibilities, ecosystem rehabilitation, long-term strategies

2: INCREASE TECHNICAL CAPACITY AND MANAGEMENT OF LD RISKS

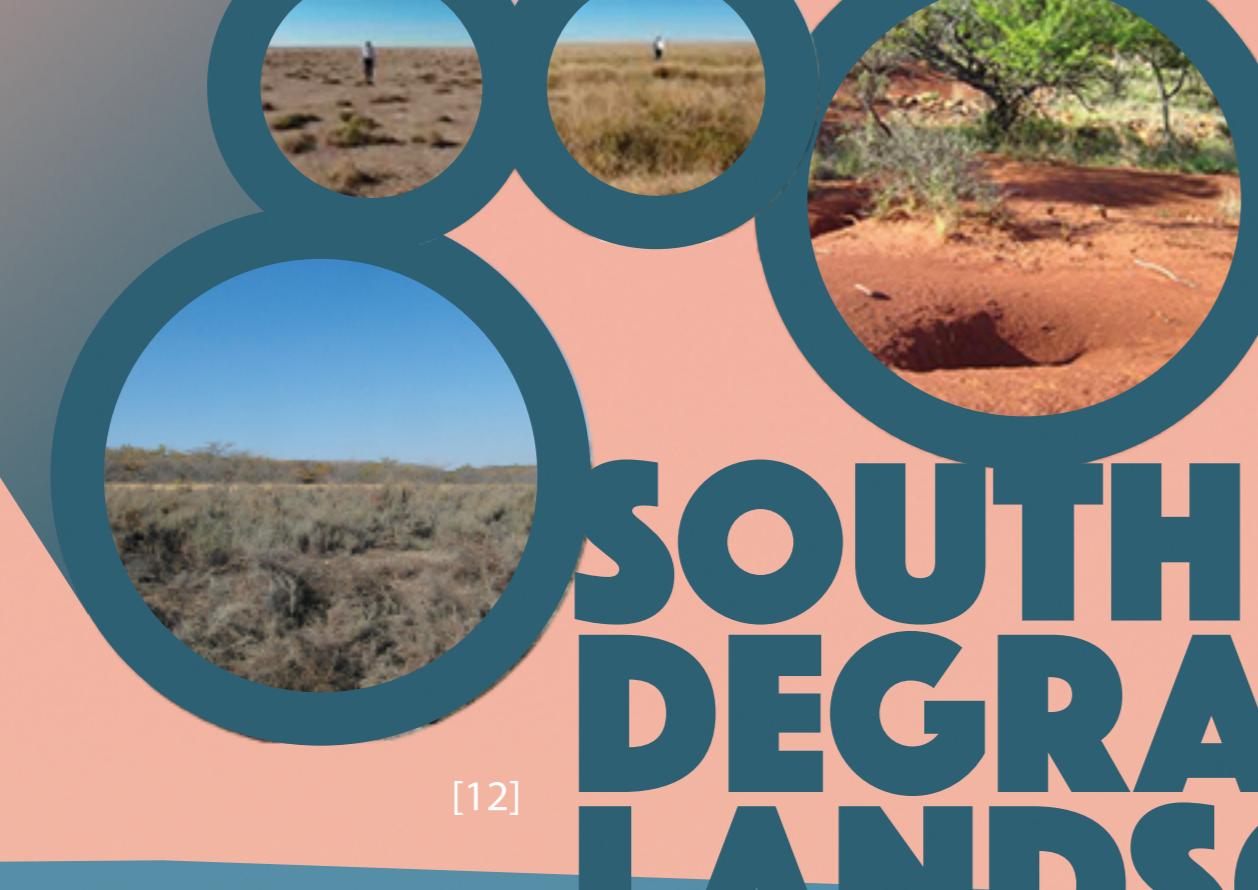
Availability of degradation data for effective analysis, Training and skills development at national, provincial and local levels

3: CREATE AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Access for farmers to the carbon market

4: DEVELOPMENT OF FINANCIAL AND GOVERNMENT FRAMEWORKS

Support of SLM approaches, strategies for provincial development and municipal land-use plans and policies, implementing nationwide measures



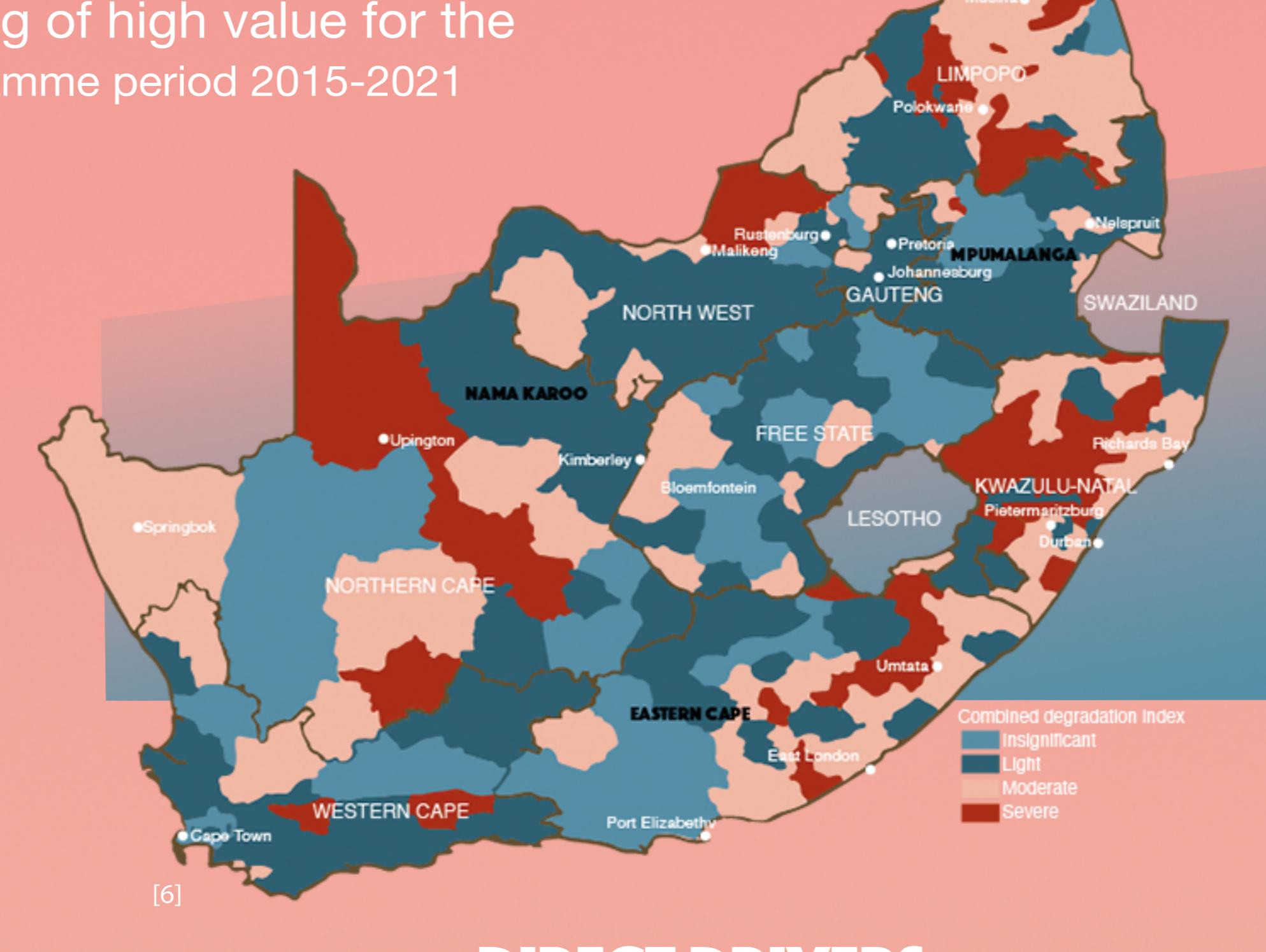
SOUTH AFRICA'S DEGRADED LANDSCAPES

National

91% of South Africa's 122 Mio. ha land surface is dryland, which makes it especially prone to desertification, degradation or drought, exacerbated by human activity

82% of the land are used for agricultural purposes, but only

14% of that are suitable for crop farming. The rest is used for extensive grazing, forestry and nature conservation



Global

Initiated by the UNCCD's Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target Setting Programme (TSP) so far **127 nations** committed to setting national targets in synergy with the 17 SDGs to achieve LDN by 2030 by implementing policies that benefit all, socially, economically, ecologically.

One of them is South Africa.

UNCCD
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification



LAND DEGRADATION NEUTRALITY

„A state whereby the amount and quality of land resources, necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and enhance food security, remains stable or increases within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems“

- definition by UNCCD



DIRECT DRIVERS

- OVERABSTRACTION OF WATER
- OVERHARVESTING OF NATURAL RESOURCES
- MINING
- ALIEN INVASIVE SPECIES
- BUSH ENCROACHMENT
- UNSUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT
- URBANIZATION & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

INDIRECT DRIVERS

- POVERTY
- HIGH POPULATION DENSITY
- MARKET ACCESS
- DECENTRALIZATION
- LAND TENURE
- INTERNATIONAL POLICIES
- HISTORIC INFLUENCE