

FireWise Communities

“Fire Adapted Communities are resilient to
the threat of fire”



Overview

- Background
- Vision and Aims
- Our National Programme
- How we work
- Why we have Chosen the FireWise Programme

Background

The FireWise Programme began in 2004 as an advocacy campaign.

It was initiated by Government and implemented by the Forest Fire Association (FFA) under the Working on Fire banner.





Vision

With adequate planning and cooperation among varying interests, wildfires should occur without disastrous loss of life, property and resources.



FW Aims to;

- Change public and community behaviour with regard to wildfires
- Reduce unwanted ignitions and thus reduce the frequency of damaging wildfires
- Promote Integrated Fire Management
- Implement internationally accepted principles of Community–Based Fire Management

St Francis Bay



Prevention is better than Cure



In the Aftermath



The “Wildfire Disaster Cycle”



With the anticipated conditions of Climate Change;

We strive to;

- Develop fire-adapted communities
- Teach communities to take steps to reduce their fire risk potential
- Help communities understand the importance of taking ownership of their own protection from wildfires

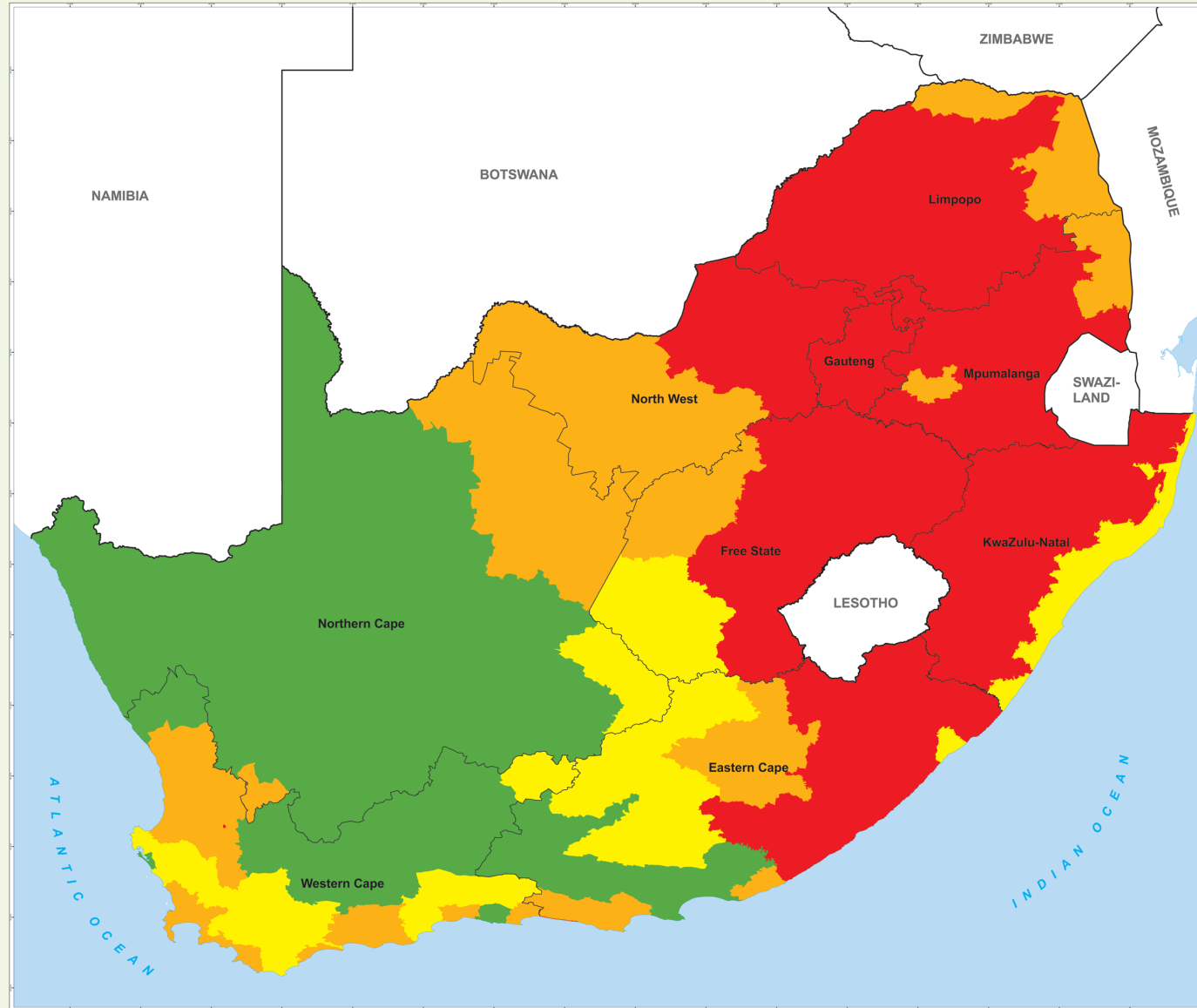


FW Communities Nationally

- 31 Voluntary Communities
- 6 Wage Incentive Communities
 - KZN – Eshowe and Kwamemela
 - Mpumalanga – Piet Retief and Matsulu
 - Limpopo – Mutale



Veld and Forest Fire Risk Map



Veld and Forest Fire Risk Map

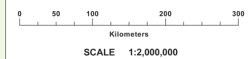
Legend

Risk

- Extreme
- High
- Medium
- Low

Legend

- Provincial Boundaries
- International Boundaries



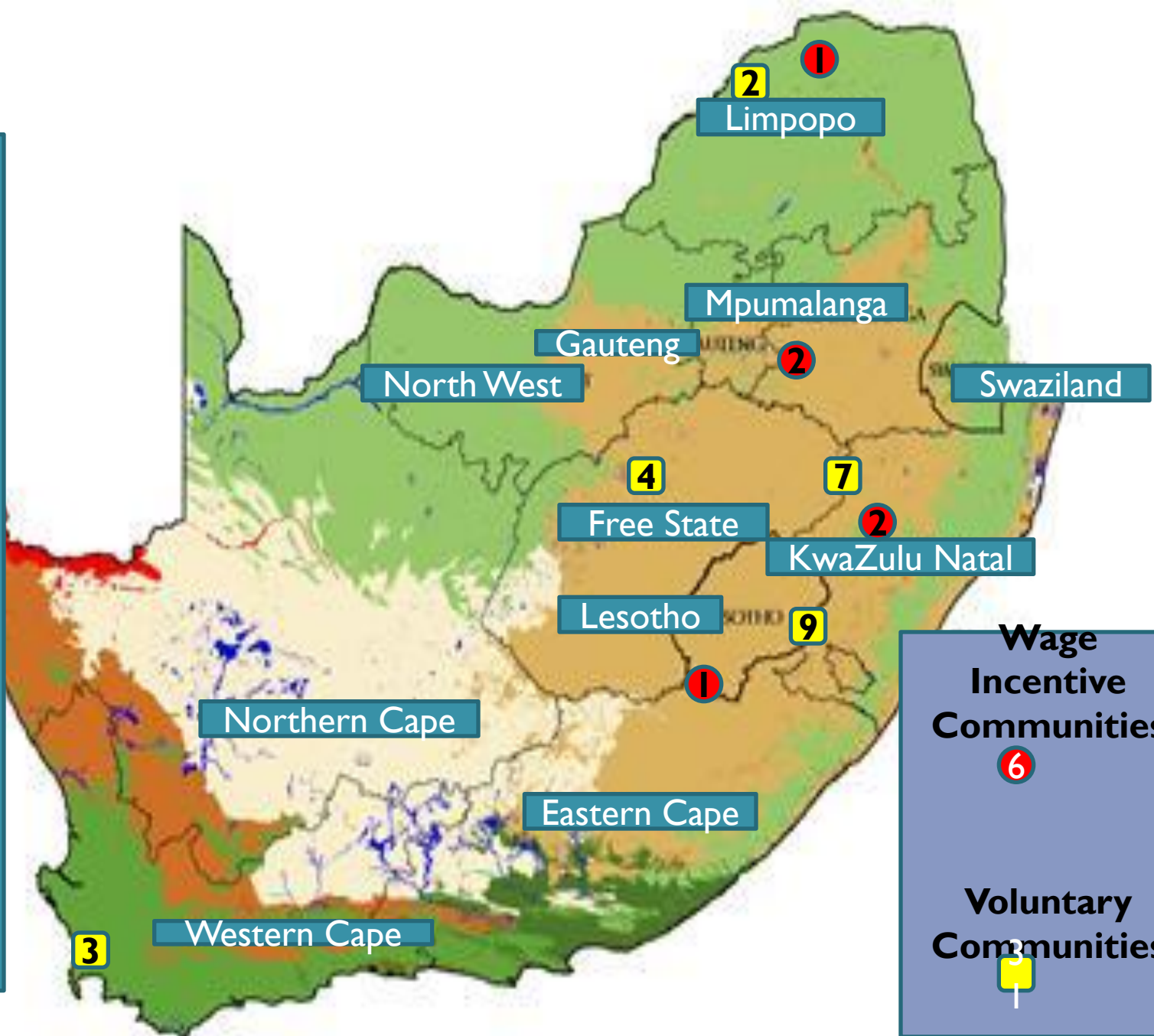
Disclaimer: Although the greatest care has been taken to ensure that this map is as true to scale and accurate, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries does not necessarily express or implied as to the accuracy, reliability, completeness or utility of this information. This maps scale has been adapted to print A4.

Map produced by:
Department Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries
December 2010
Veld and Forest Fire Risk Map
Campaign: F. Nedy
Map Date: June 2003

Data sources and acknowledgements

Chief: Directorate: Survey & Mapping, Department of Land Affairs;
Base Data
Municipal Demarcation Report
Provincial, district municipal and local municipal boundaries.

KwaZulu
 Natal
 16
 Limpopo
 3
 Eastern
 Cape
 2
 Western
 Cape
 3
 Free State
 4
 Mpumalanga
 3



**Wage
 Incentive
 Communities**
 6

**Voluntary
 Communities**
 9

What we do



- Make technical support available to potential FireWise Communities
- Initiate projects in willing communities/ community groups
- Prime area of work is with Communities living on the Wildland Urban Interface
- Ensure an Integrated Fire Management approach through a broad community consultation process.



Focus on Communities

- Vulnerable to fires
- Who experienced loss and hence are committed to the programme
- That don't have quick/easy access to Fire Support Services
- That are willing to share the responsibility of safety from fires...



Objectives

- Create Awareness about the dangers of wildfires
- Equip homeowners, community leaders, planners and developers with the knowledge and skills of fire prevention
- Assist Authorities to get Voluntary Compliance with existing Wildfire Safety Rules
- Provide the enabling space for communities to work together with key partners and authorities to improve the response to unwanted fires



Method

- We work with stakeholders/partners to identify suitable communities
- Community members need to be willing to spend time on voluntary activities
- Partners/Stakeholders identify suitable candidates in communities to be trained on the FW Train-the-Trainer course
- The FFA NPC undertakes to supply community leaders and stakeholders with technical support
- Where feasible, FFA will mentor community leaders and stakeholders through their first community training session



Proposed FW Community Activities

- Education at the household level (door-to-door)
- Community Awareness
- Supervised preparation of fire breaks
- Fuel reduction (in conjunction with FPAs)
- Pre-fire season clean-up
- Creating defensible space around dwellings
- Assessment regarding improvement of ingress/egress roads
- Preparation of community 'refuge' safe space





**Location of your home in relation
to fuel**



Wildland Urban Interface

Building Structures



19/02/2013



Result of Cederberg Fires

Heuningvlei house burnt down





The program wishes to create a paradigm shift from fearing fire to living with fire in a safe way

FireWise Community Criteria



1. Committee

- FFA NPC and FFA assist with the establishment of the Committee
- Has to be a Community Driven process

2. Veld and Fire Risk Assessment

- FPAs need to assist to ensure compliance

3. Fire Management Plan

- Drawn up using the outcome of the Risk Assessment

4. FireWise Day

- To get community buy-in

FireWise Plaque

- A formal recognition ceremony is a wonderful way to acknowledge and celebrate the community's FireWise achievements





“Thank you”