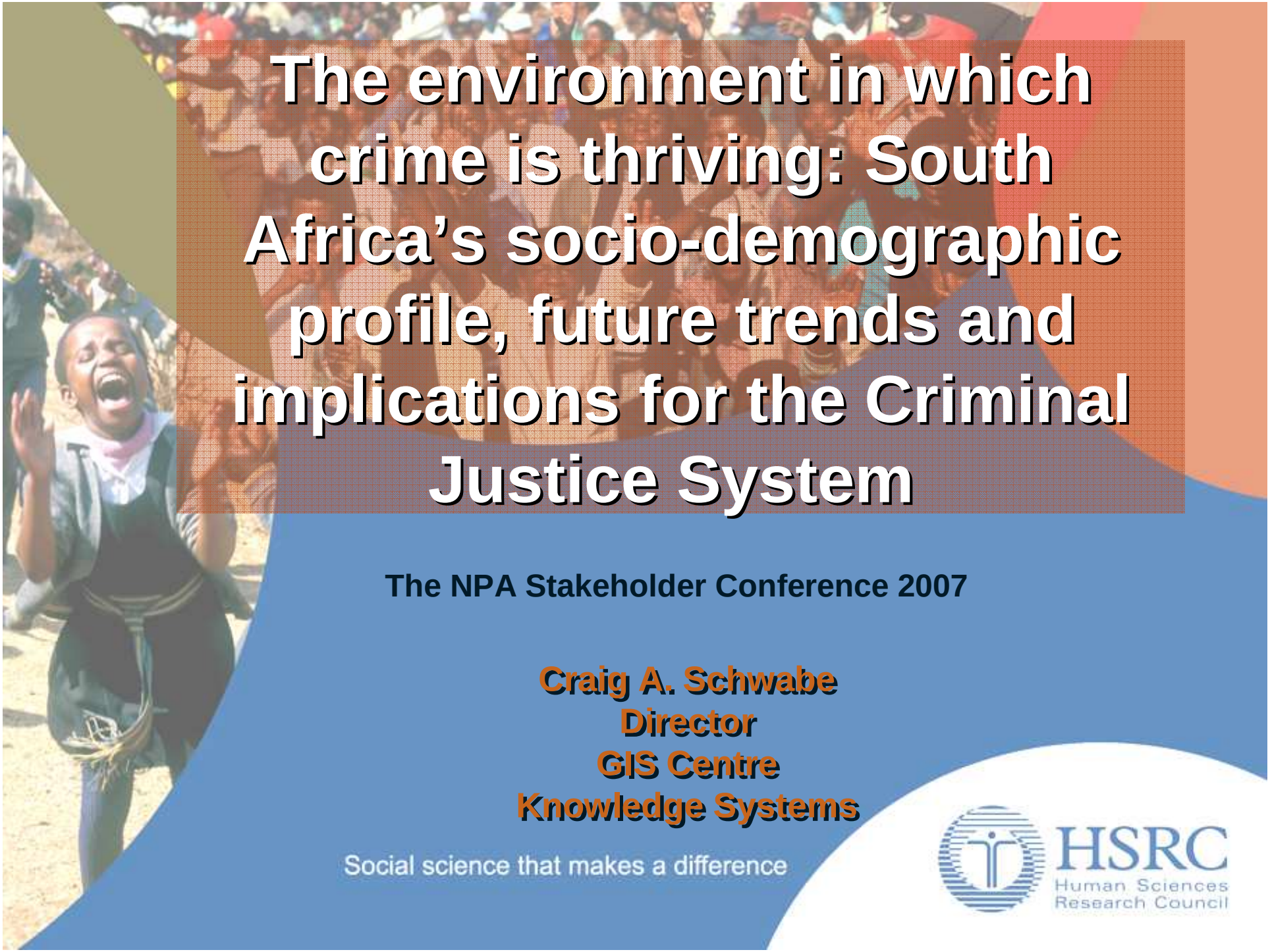

The environment in which crime is thriving: South Africa's socio-demographic profile, future trends and implications for the Criminal Justice System

The NPA Stakeholder Conference 2007

Craig A. Schwabe
Director
GIS Centre
Knowledge Systems

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Purpose of presentation

- Overview of the socio-economic situation in South Africa
- Present some future trends
- Examine crime within a theoretical context
- Examine crime within a futures scenario
- Profiling of priority police stations in South Africa

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A SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF SOUTH AFRICA

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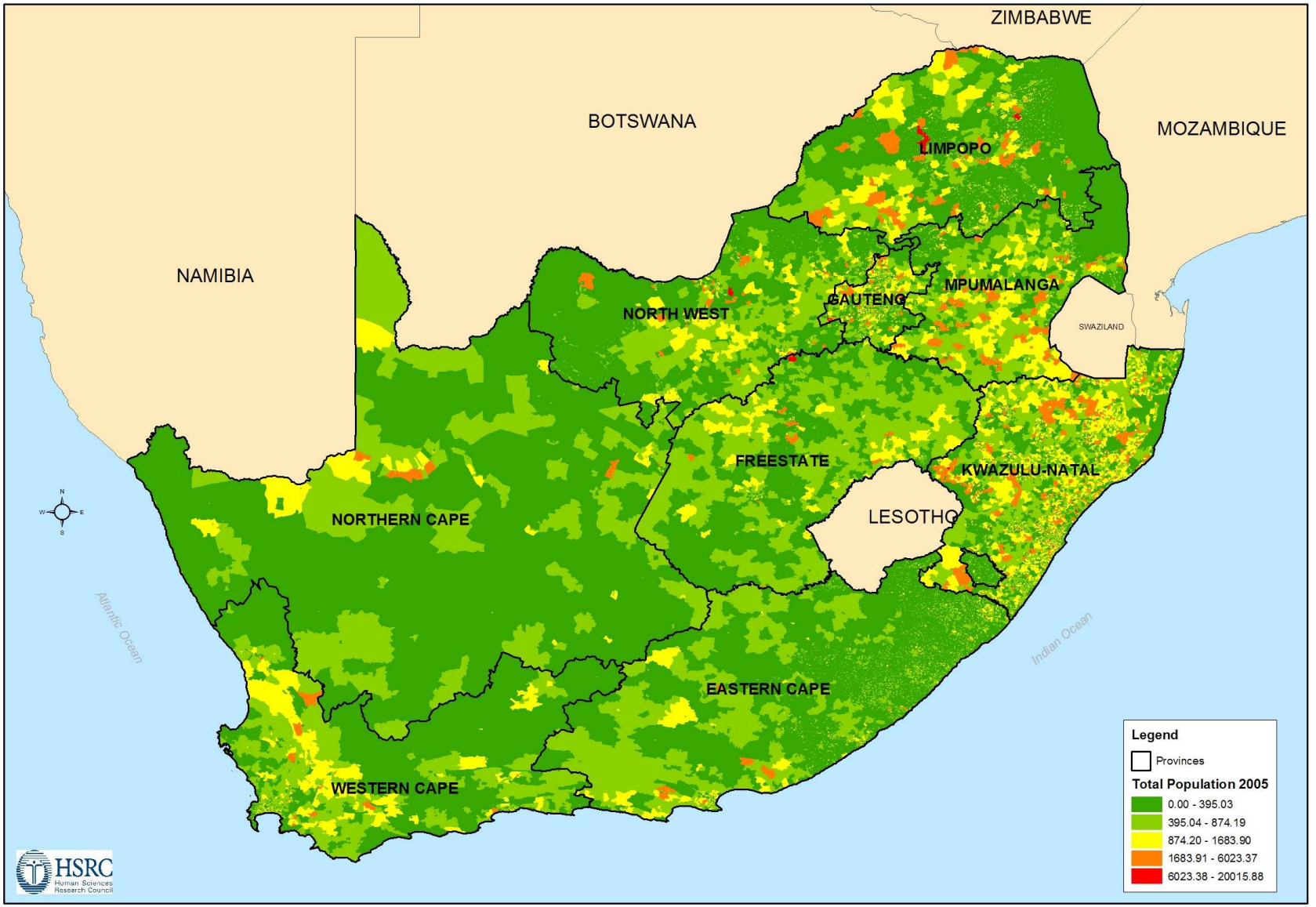
Total population 2005



Population

- Total population of 47.4 million in 2006
- Largest concentration of the population is in major metropolitan areas and continuing to grow on the periphery
- KwaZulu-Natal has largest population (9.9 mill) followed by Eastern Cape (6.8 mill) and Limpopo (5.4 mill)
- Rural provinces generally have high male absenteeism – migrant workers
- Limpopo has lowest male : female ratio (0.89)
- Only North West has higher male : female ratio (1.05) – mining industry
- Population growth rate has declined to 1%
- HIV prevalence is 11%

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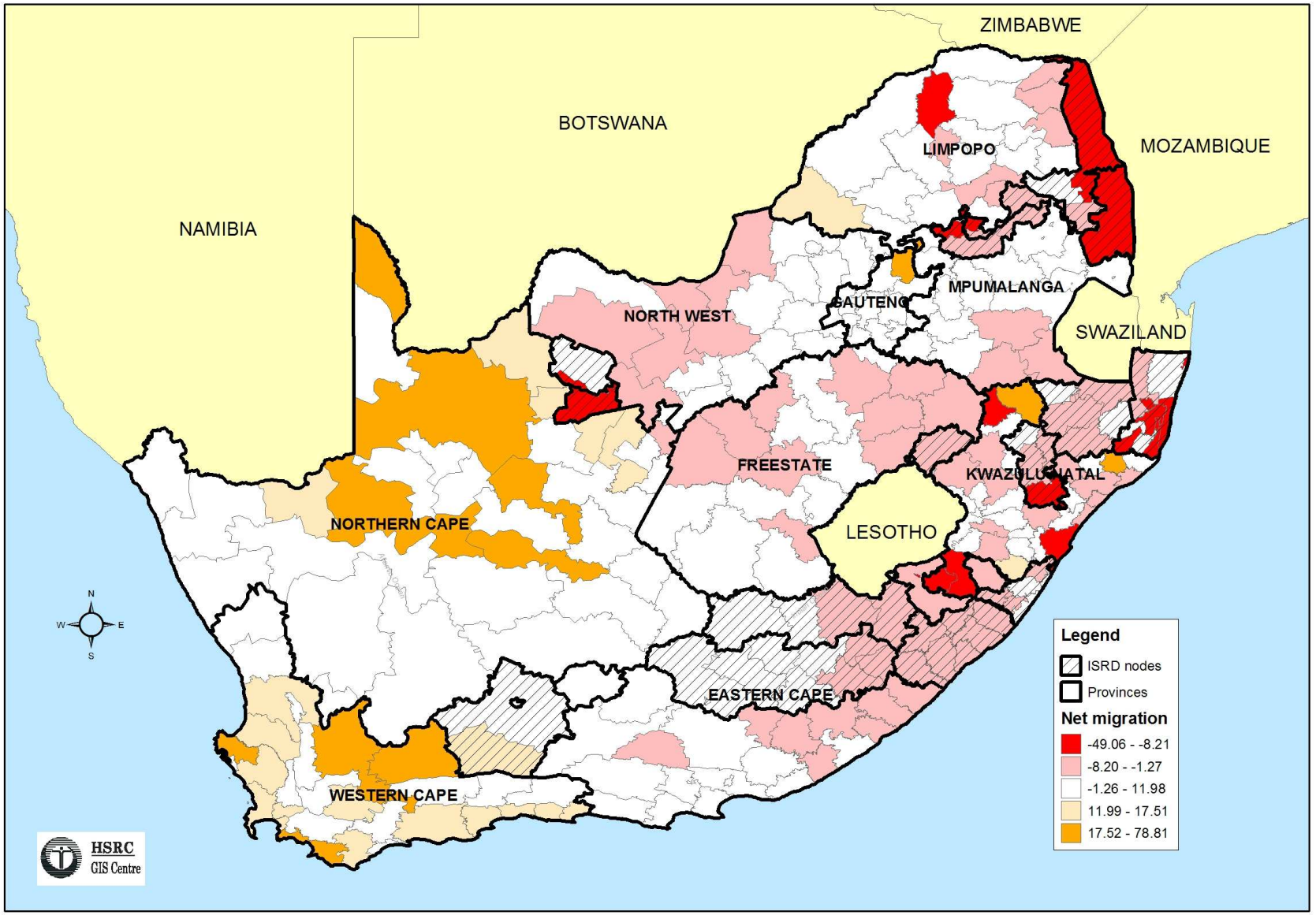
Net migration 2001



Migration

- Net out migration from most rural areas, especially the more remote and former homelands (e.g. Ga-Segonyana, Greater Marble Hall, Matatiele, Hlabisa)
- Net in migration into areas where better economic activity (most Western Cape, northern parts of Northern Cape, parts of North West)
- Strong migration into metropolitan areas and into informal settlements found urban periphery

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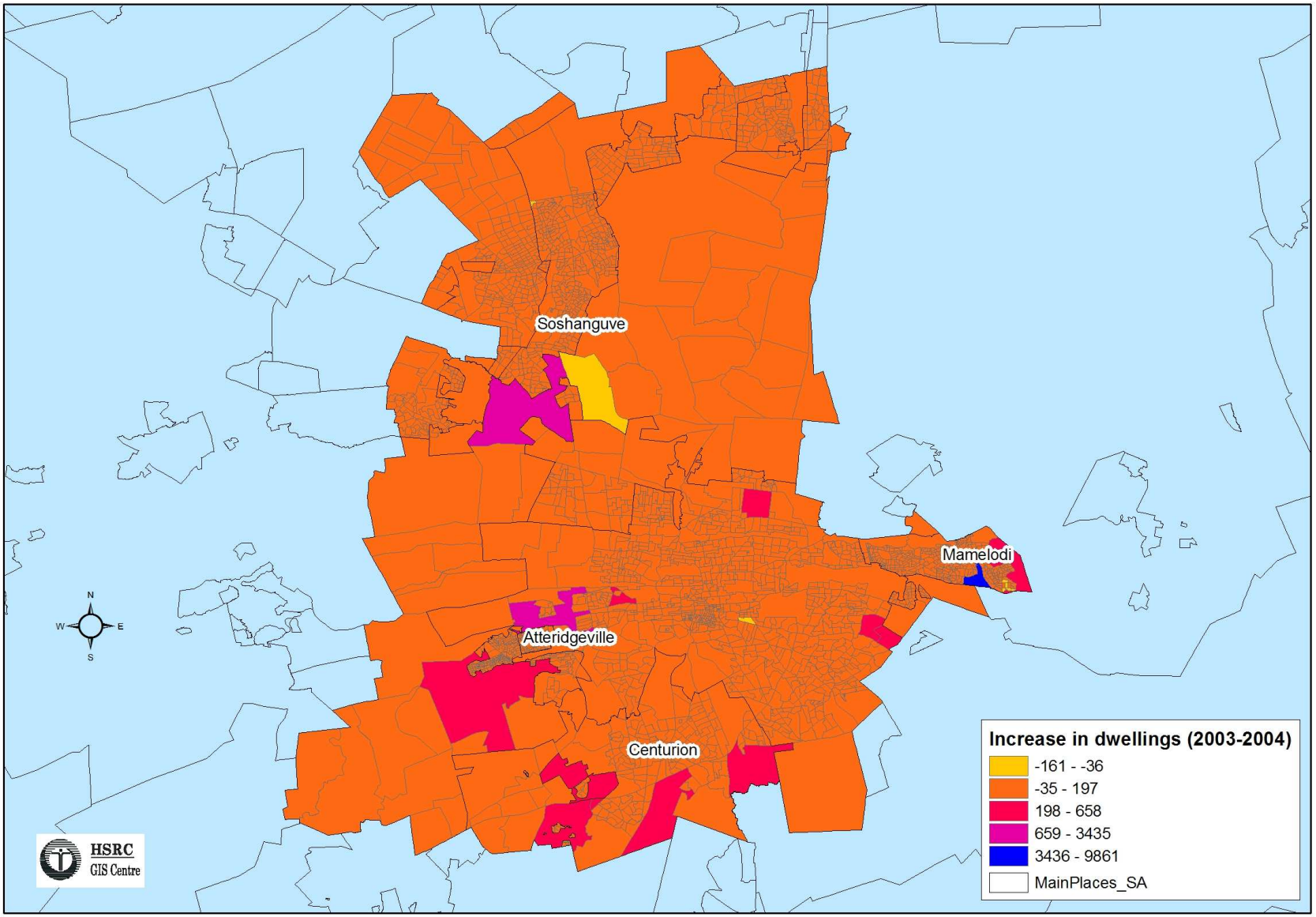
Tshwane Inmigration 2003-2004



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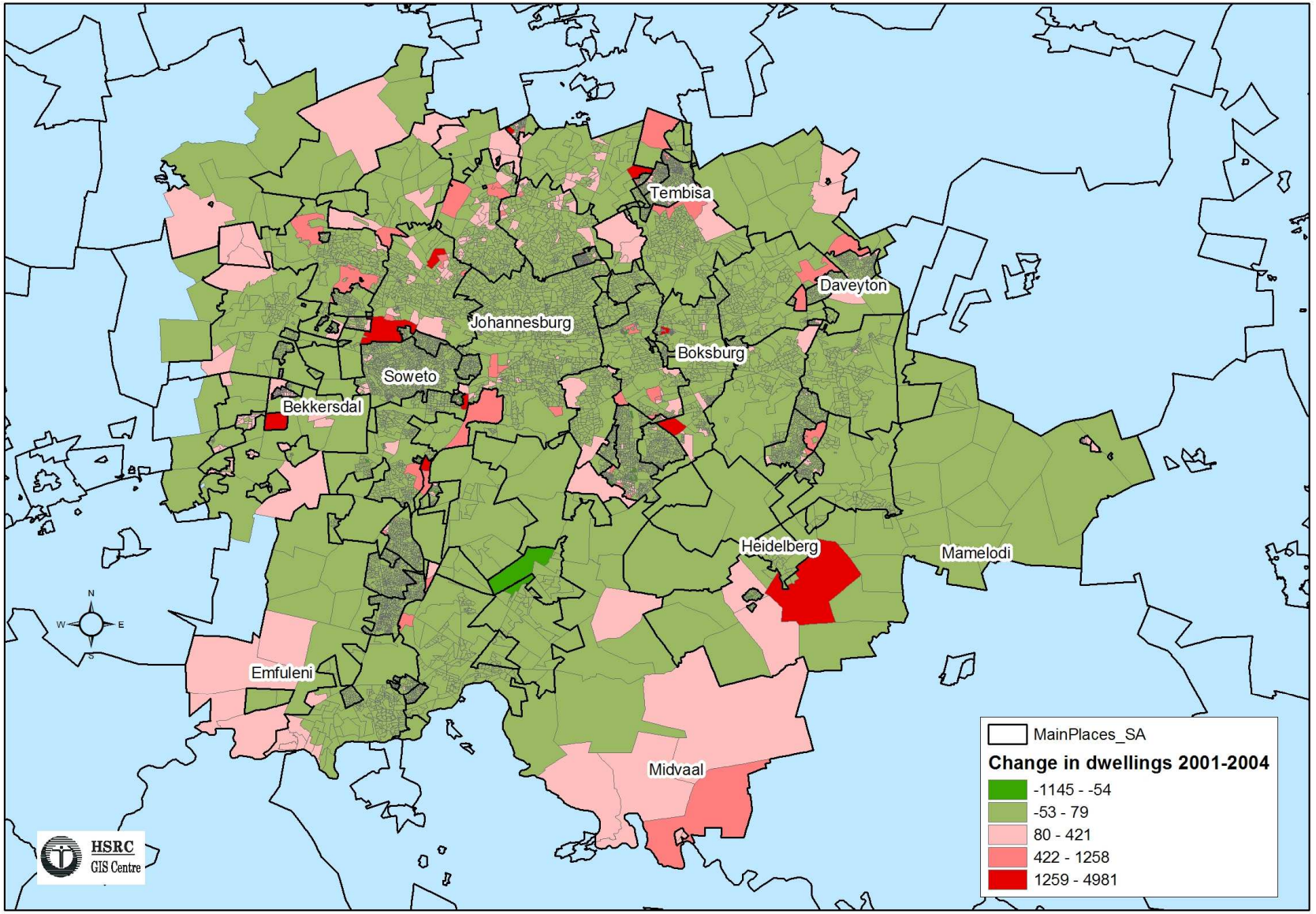
Johannesburg
Inmigration 2001-2004



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Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

- The GDP is a measures of the size of the economy.
- The GDP is the market value of all final goods and services produced and includes:
  - Consumption (i.e. use of goods and services)
  - Investment (i.e. savings, purchase of capital goods)
  - Government spending (i.e. government purchases, transfer, taxes, government borrowing)
  - Exports minus imports
- GDP by sector defines what is driving the economy in a municipality

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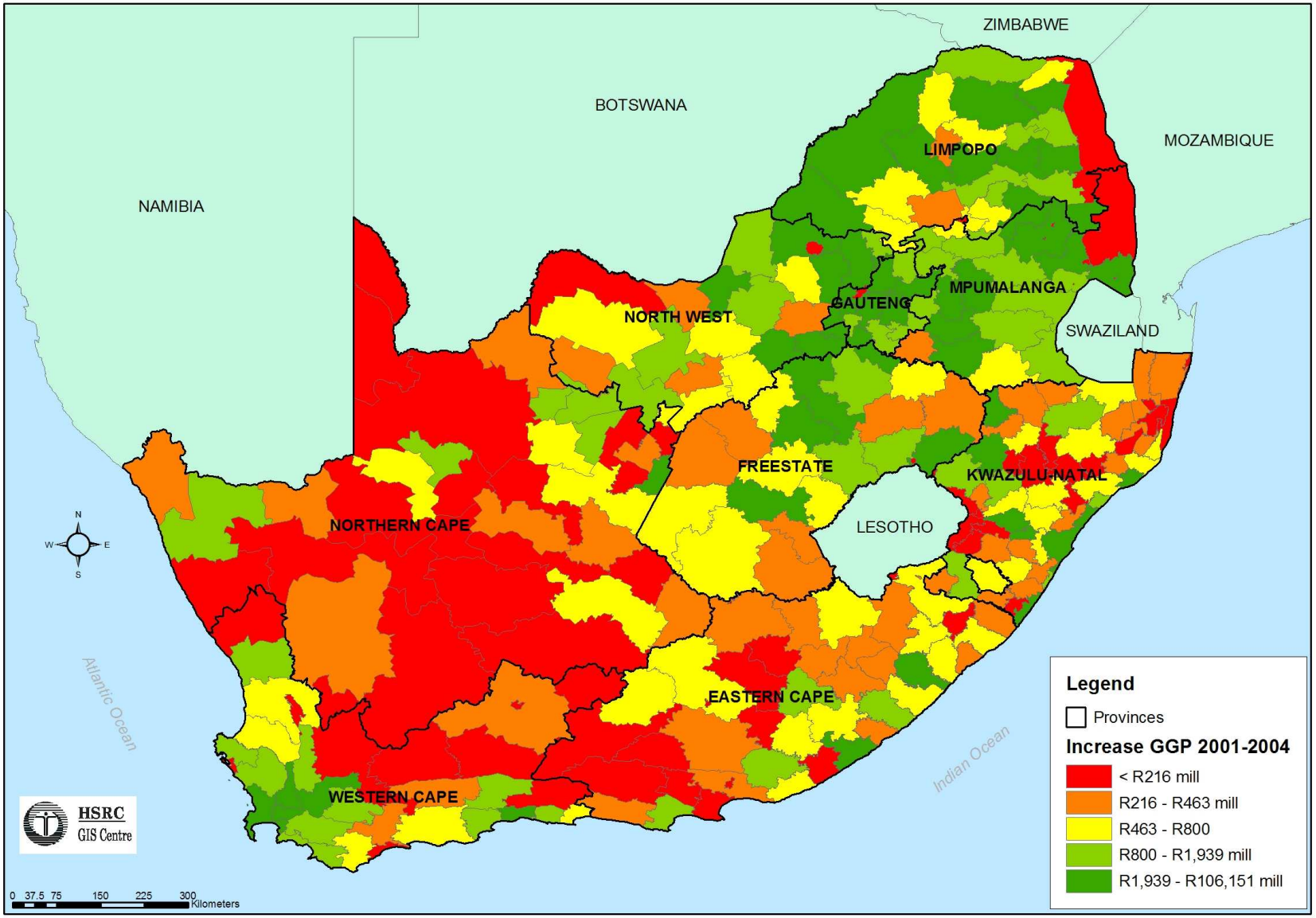
Increase in GDP 2001-2004



GDP By Sector 2004

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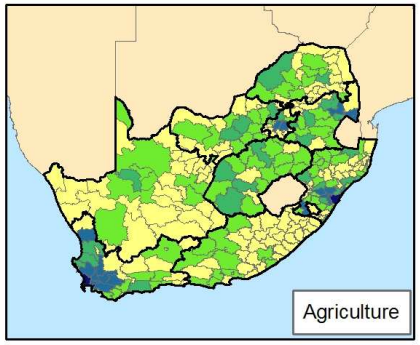

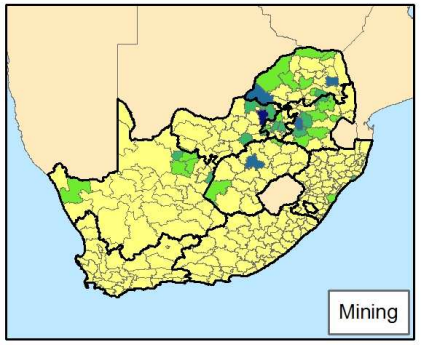

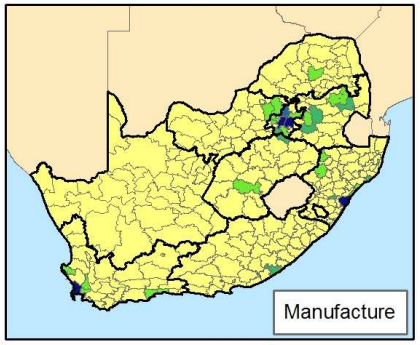

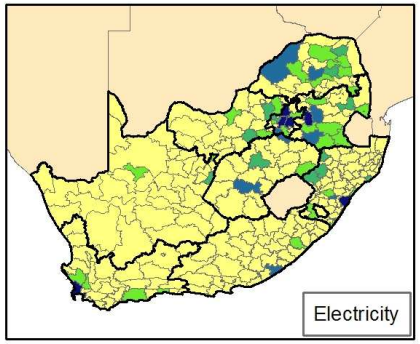

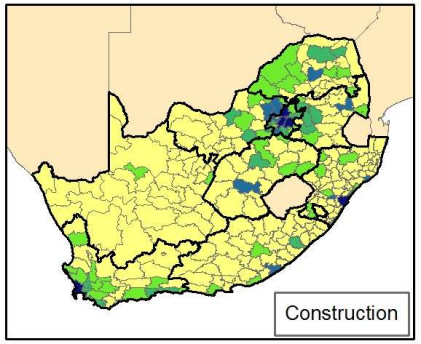

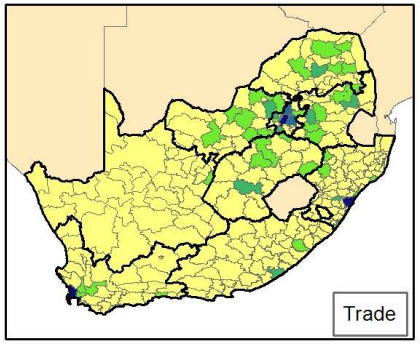

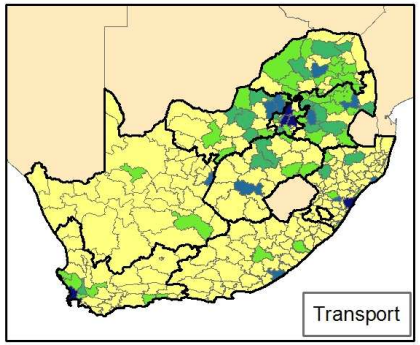

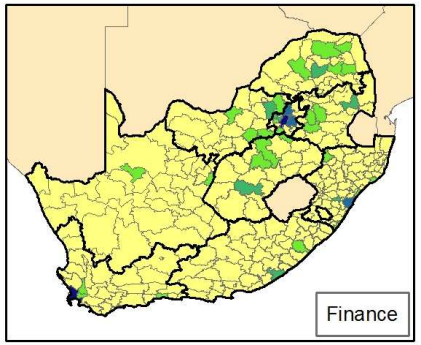

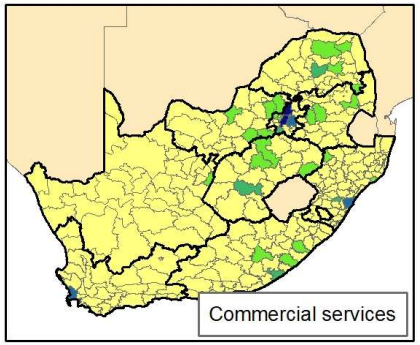

Human Development Index (HDI)

- Summarizes an areas human development potential - health, education and wealth
- Systematic way of comparing levels of development within countries
- Health - life expectancy at birth
- Education - adult literacy rates and age specific enrolment rate in education institutions
- Wealth - average Purchasing Power Parity income

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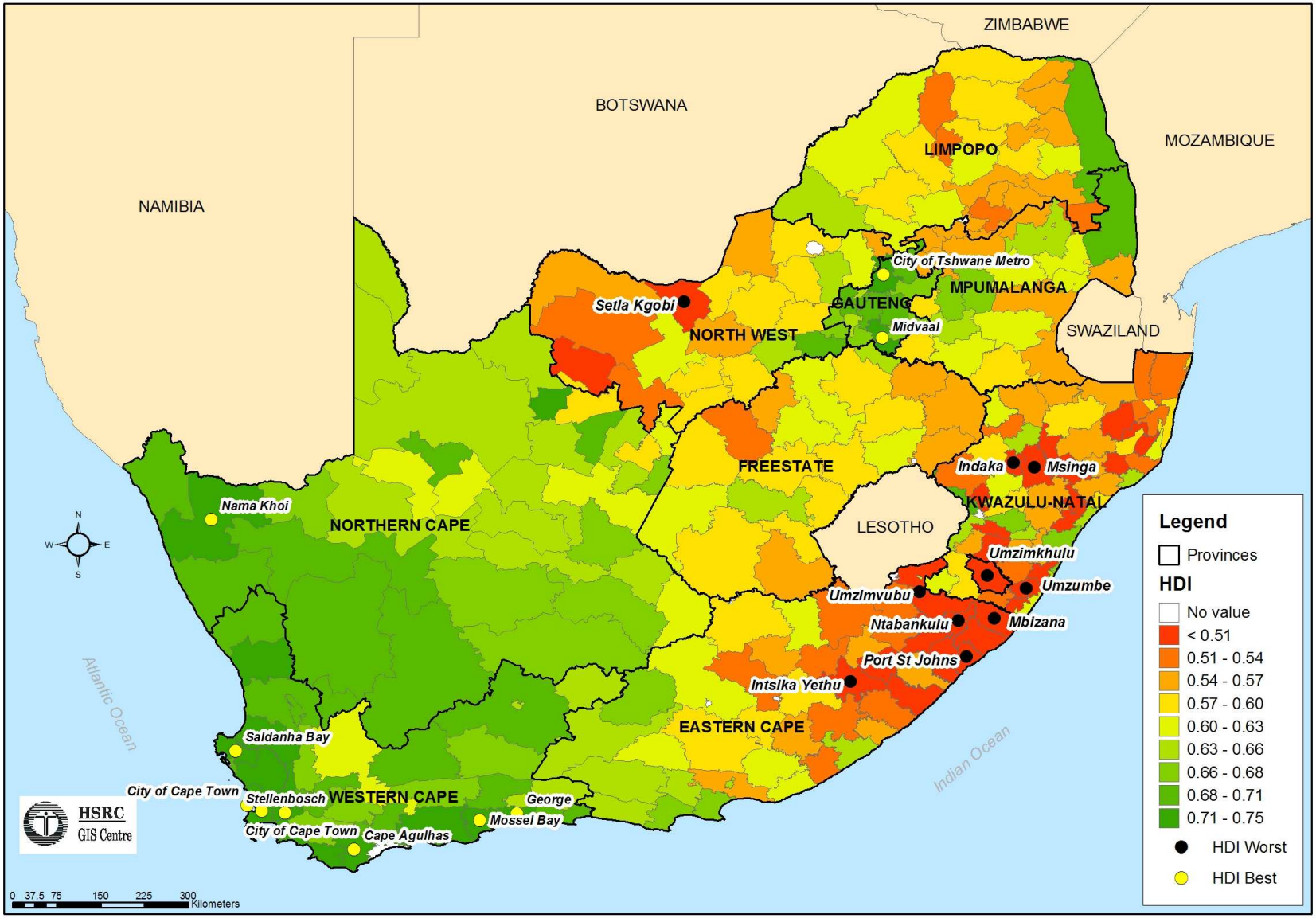
HDI



Poverty Gap

- Poverty gap measures the difference between each poor household's income and the poverty line - depth of poverty
- Equates to total amount needed in income to raise all households out of poverty in a year
- Poverty rate is the percentage households living below the poverty line
- Although poverty levels are declining – poverty remains a problem in historically disadvantaged areas
- Some areas are not being effectively targeted (e.g. Msinga)
- New poverty areas are emerging that need to be monitored (e.g. Free State)

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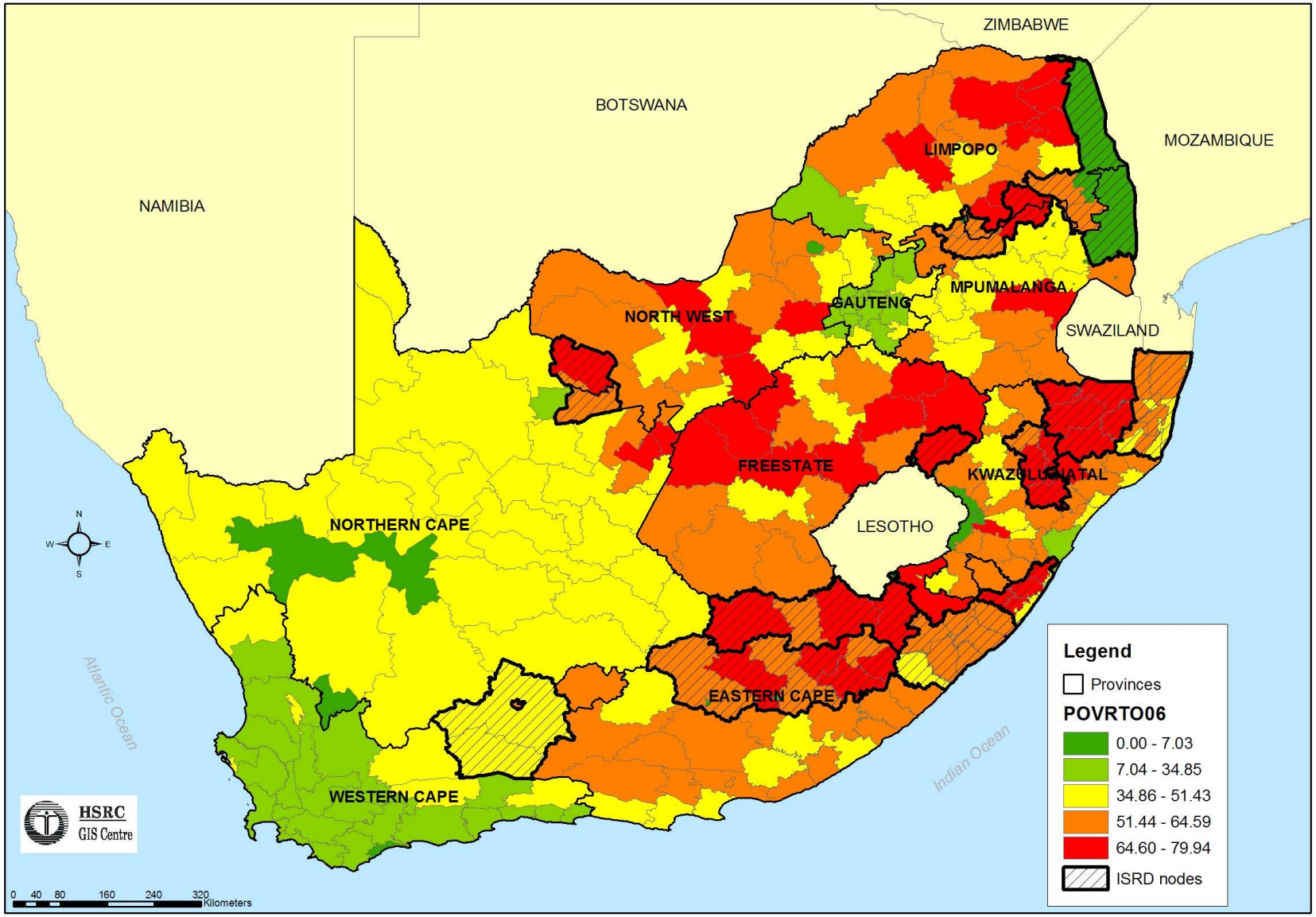
Poverty Rate 2006



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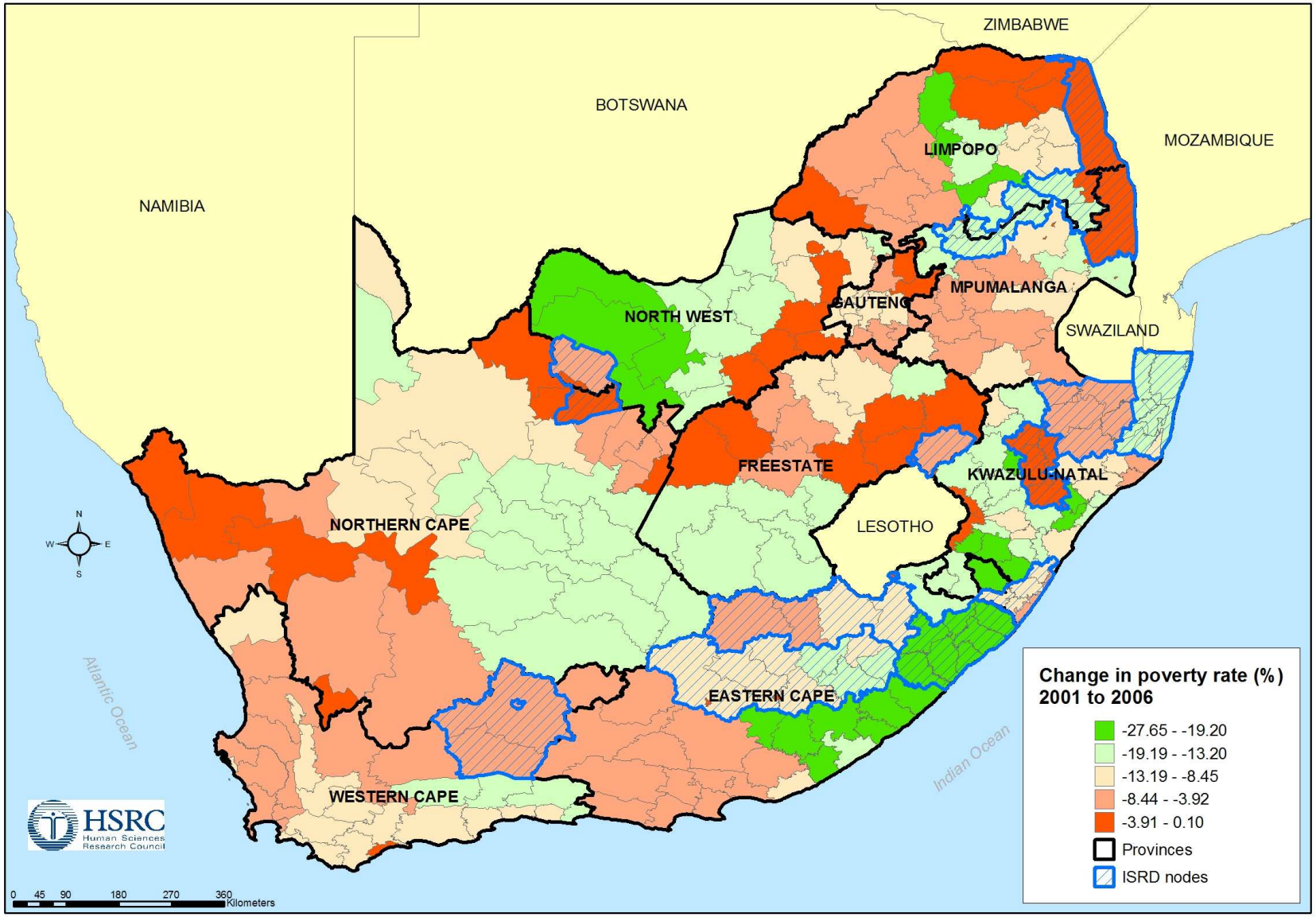
Change in Poverty Rate 2001-2006



Gini Coefficient

- The Gini coefficient is a measure of income inequality
- South Africa one of worst in the world
- Indicator of ‘relative depravation’ – key driver of crime – those that ‘have and don’t have’
  - 0 - perfect equality and all households earn same income
  - 1 - one household earns all the income and other households earn nothing
- Concentrated in rural areas but also in some metropolitan areas

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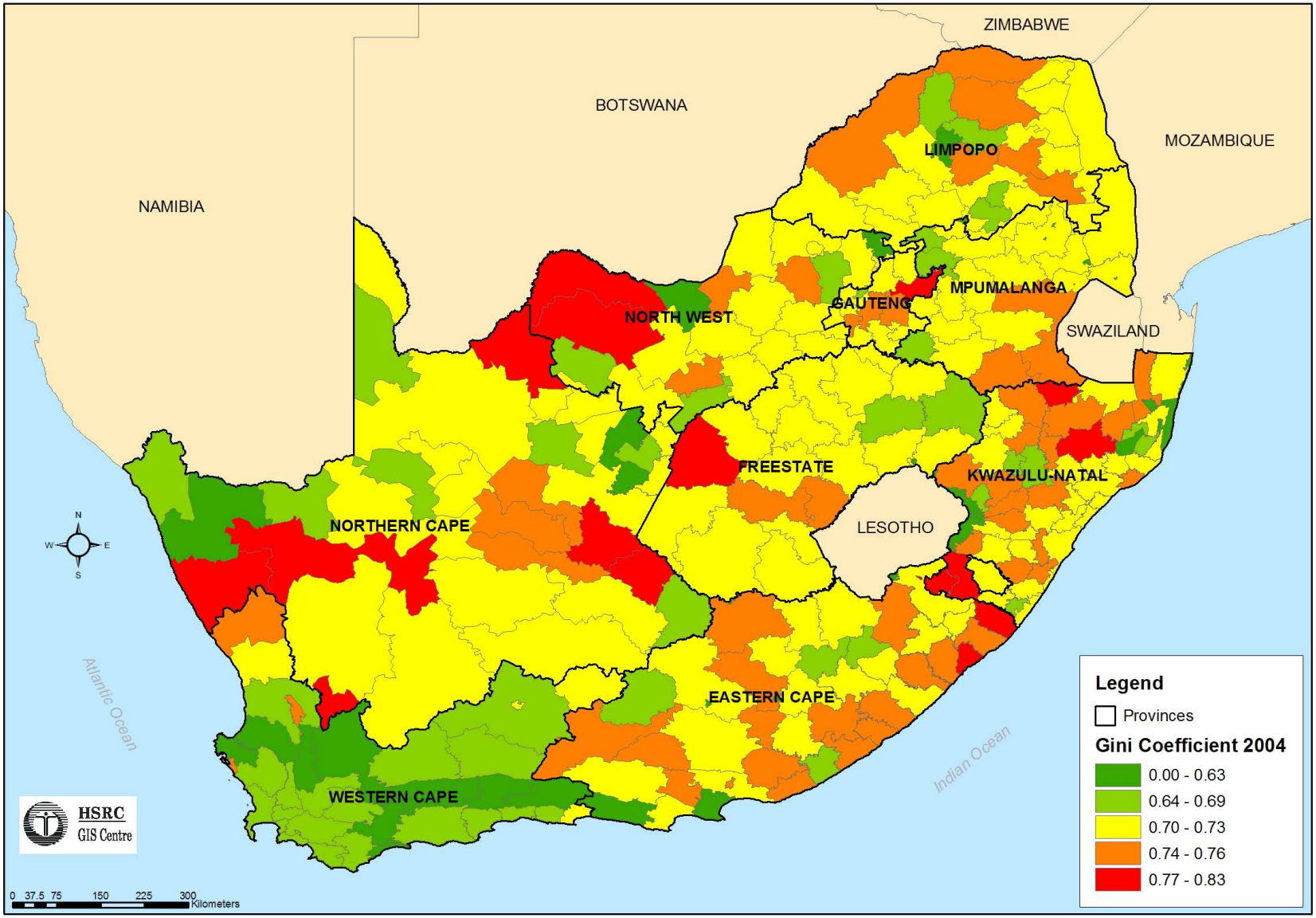
Gini Coefficient 2004



Multiple Depravation

- Composite index and a indicator of service need:
  - Access to income
  - Access to household assets (e.g. refrigerator, television, radio)
  - Levels of employment
  - Levels of health
  - Levels of education
  - Living conditions (e.g. access to piped water, sanitation, electricity, telephone, type of dwelling and occupancy rates)
- Historically disadvantaged areas dominate but new areas are emerging (e.g. Tswelopele)
- Since 2001 seems to have been an improvement in service delivery

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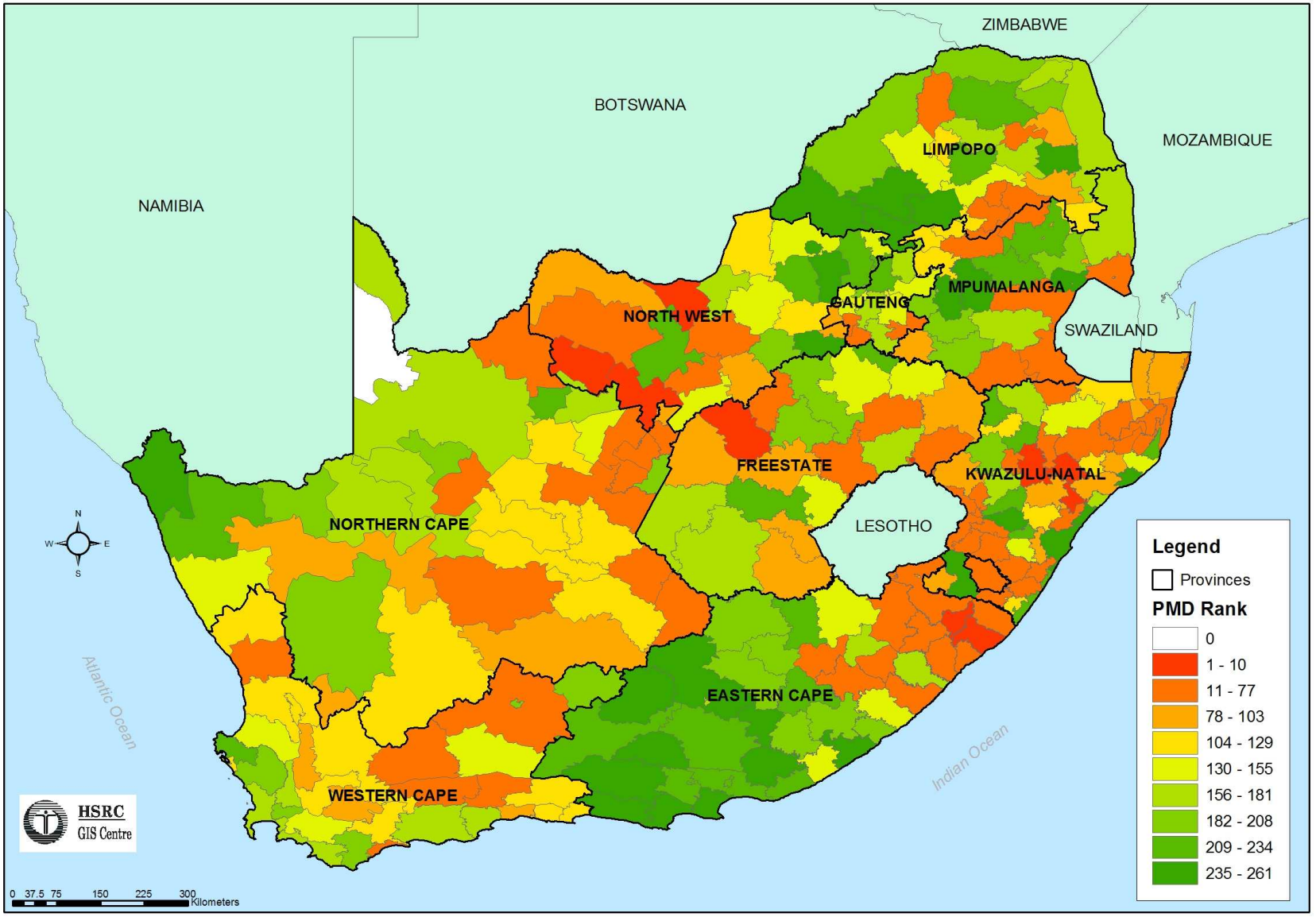
Multiple Depravation 2001



Malnutrition and hunger

- Malnutrition is caused by improper or insufficient diet – a lack of sufficient nutrients to maintain healthy bodily functions .
- Malnutrition may reduce the capacity of the body to function
- People that are poor are generally malnourished but are exceptions (e.g. Free State)
- High priority areas are again former homeland areas.

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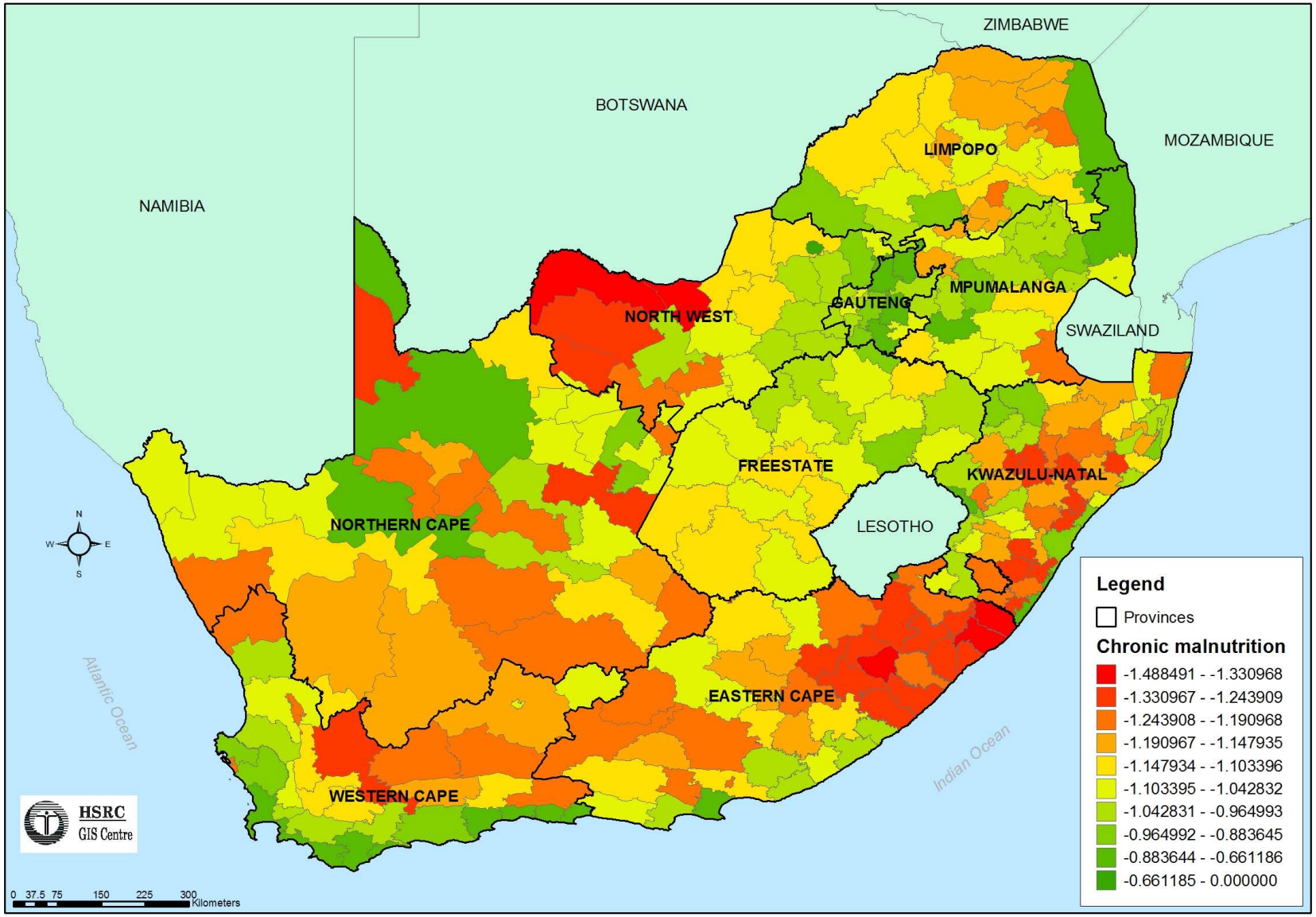
Chronic malnutrition



Present and future trends

- Population growth is slowing – affected by HIV/AIDS
- Significant migration of people to economic centres and into informal settlements will continue
- Strong economic growth but food and petrol price increases making people vulnerable
- Food security has improved but food price increases in 2007 (25%) is a major problem
- Poverty levels declining and provision of services improving
- Inequality or “relative depravation” worsening – major driver of crime
- Need to target the ultra poor and look at holistic approach to job creation at the local level

What needs to be done

- Government expenditure is reducing poverty
- Historically disadvantaged areas are reaping the benefits but more needs to be done
- Available information confirms which are the priority areas
- A more holistic understanding of the problems at a localized level is needed
- The expenditure needs to be more targeted with appropriate interventions– ‘check list’ approach to local development
- The local economy needs to be diversified and bolstered considering the environment and people

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IMPLICATIONS FOR CRIME

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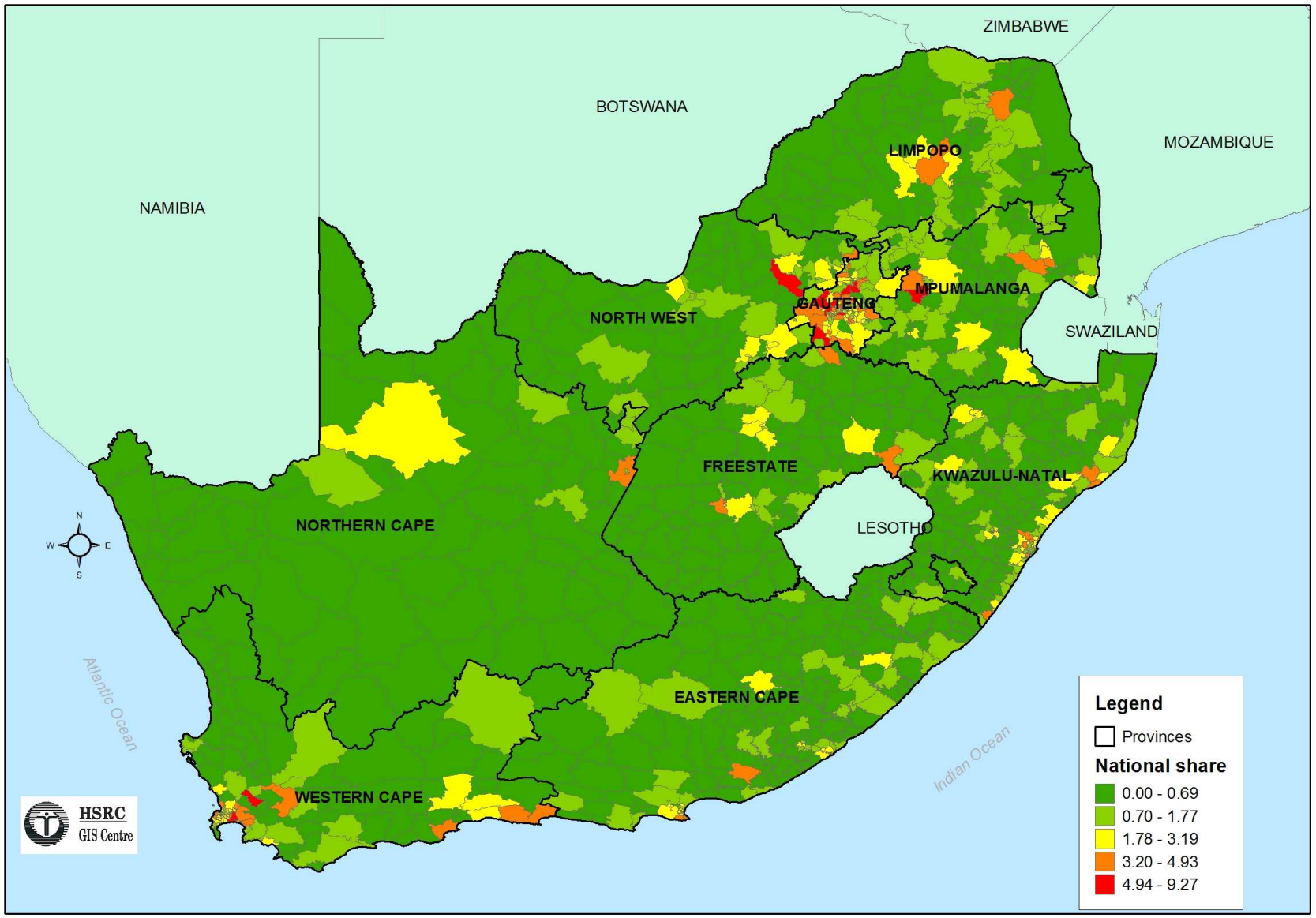
Residential burglaries 2004



Top 50 ranked police stations - murder

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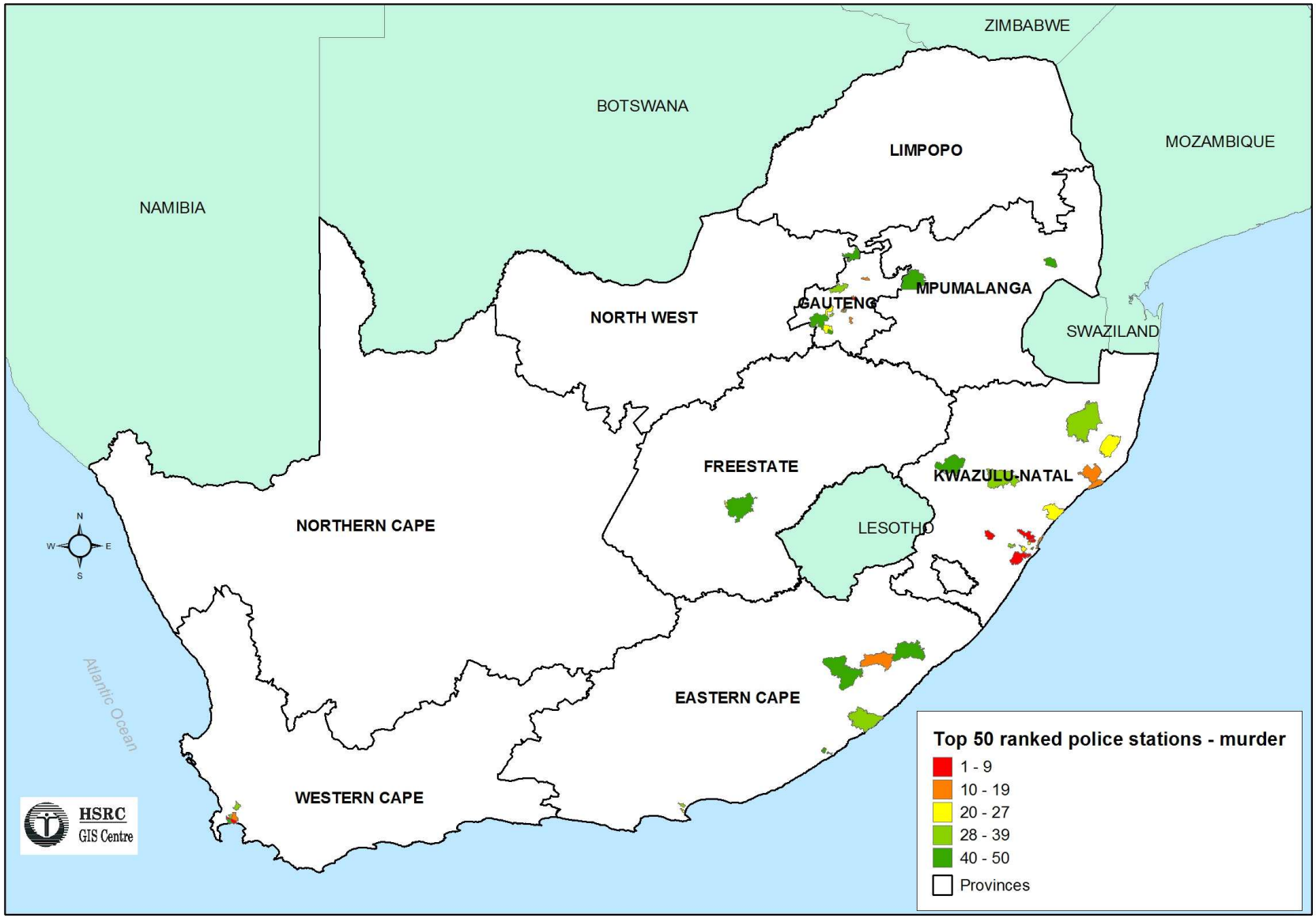

Tackling crime – long term

- Need to understand the society within which crime is occurring – their needs and perceptions
- Theory of crime needs to be considered in developing strategies and policies
- Need to look at international best practice (e.g. ‘broken glass’ theory)
- Continue to implement key intervention programme (e.g. public works, school feeding)
- Local economic development and job creation is key
- Continual engagement and communication on what is being done is key

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Tackling crime – short term

- South Africa is well positioned from an information perspective to tackle crime
- Need to integrate information systems
- Need to develop the analytical skills and develop appropriate intervention strategies (e.g. visibility, patrol patterns, service indicators)
- Engaging with citizens and being accountable to them is key

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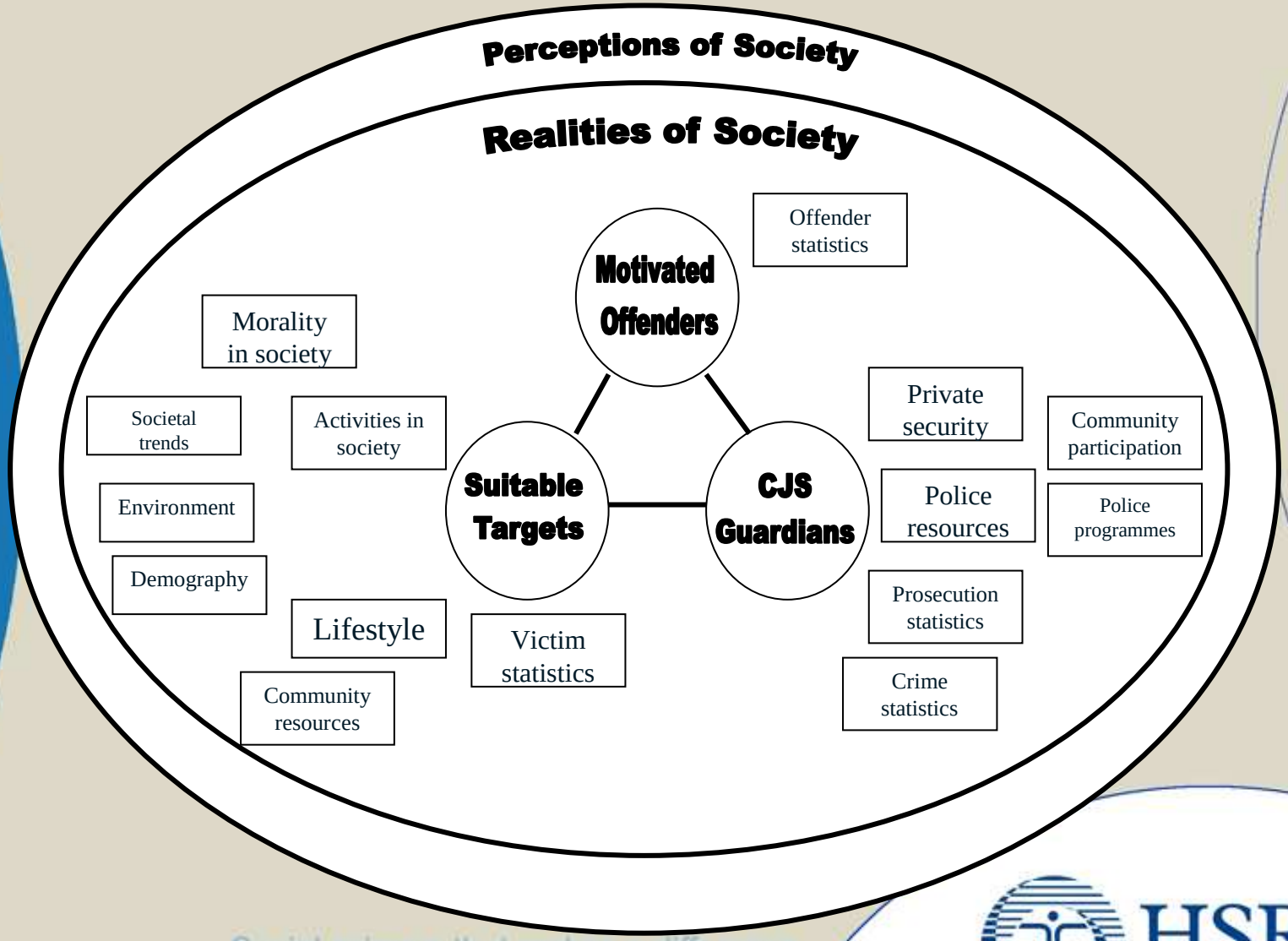
Information model for crime analysis



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Future trends in crime

- With food insecurity destined to increase, relative depravation increasing and people becoming more vulnerable certain crimes will increase or remain high
- Need to deal with people's needs and fears at a local level
- Continue to provide social grants, services and infrastructure programmes but feeding schemes remain a high priority
- Need to target the ultra poor and look at holistic approach to job creation at the local level
- Short term crime intervention strategies need to be implemented

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PROFILING OF PRIORITY POLICE STATIONS

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Future trends in crime

- Profiling at the police station level is required to develop appropriate intervention strategies
- Information is required on:
  - Geographic characteristics (e.g. terrain, land use)
  - Socio-economic (e.g. population density)
  - Access to services and infrastructure (e.g. access to telephones)
  - Resources available at the police station (e.g. operational vehicle)
  - Residential location of convicted criminals
- Target high priority areas from socio-economic and crime perspective
- Citizens must be effectively involved

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