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PREFACE

Political negotiations for a new constitutional dispensation are now also directed towards determining new regions for the future South Africa. The Multi-Party Negotiation Forum appointed a commission on the delimitation of regions based upon all the pertinent criteria.

The Council for the Environment believes that a new South Africa can only be built upon the effective conservation and management of its environmental resources for the sustained benefit of present and future generations of South Africans. A prosperous South Africa cannot be achieved on a bankrupt environment. For that reason environmental criteria are fundamental for determining regional boundaries.

This document outlines the application of environmental criteria and finally proposes regions for South Africa which will provide not only an adequate basis for the effective management and sustained use of South Africa's environmental resources but also provide a sound basis for its economic and human development. The Council for the Environment presented this document to the Commission on the Delimitation of Regions as its proposal for regions for South Africa.

The Council for the Environment is a statutory body constituted in terms of the Environment Conservation Act, (Act 100 of 1982 as replaced by Act 73 of 1989) to advise the Minister of Environment Affairs on environmental matters. The Council's Committee for Terrestrial and Fresh Water Systems at a meeting in Pietermaritzburg on 12 May 1993 appointed a working group to research and formulate proposals for regions for South Africa. This document is the outcome of the working group's deliberations and now constitutes the proposal by the Council for the Environment for the delimitation of regions for South Africa.

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The Committee for Terrestrial and Fresh Water Systemâ\200\230 consti-
tuted as follows:

Prof C M Breen (Chairman), Prof P R Botha,
Mr Brian A D Egan, Dr N Fairall, Mr J T Geddes Page,
Dr G R Hughes, Mr A von W Lambrechts, Prof W R Siegfried
(Vice Chairman), Dr L P Stoltz, Prof N M Tainton,
Prof G K Theron, Mr V H Theunissen, Mr W van der Merwe and
Mr J L Vosloo.

The members of the working group on Regions for South Africa are:

Mr W van der Merwe (Convenor), Prof P R Botha,
Prof C M Breen, Mr Brian A D Egan, Prof G K Theron and
Mr J L Vosloo.

The working group was provided with technical assistance in the
form of computer-based geographical information systems by
GisLAB, Department of Landscape Architecture, University of
Pretoria and by the GIS division of the Department of Water Affairs
in conjunction with the National Environmental Potential Atlas
(ENPAT) of the Department of Environment Affairs.
Prof W F van Riet, head of the Department of Landscape
Architecture and of GisLAB at the University of Pretoria co-
ordinated the technical programmes.

COUNCIL FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
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PRETORIA

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JULY 1993

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR REGIONAL DELIMITATION

Environmental considerations which determine regional delimitation range from physiographic features to ecological systems.

Physiographic features include the physical characteristics of the South African landscape based upon its geological substructure on which the geomorphological processes generated by climate and particularly precipitation shape the topography.

The crucial processes for the maintenance of ecological integrity and life support systems for South Africa are the hydrological processes related to water yield and edaphic or soil processes relating to food production. Vegetation reflects both these ecological systems as represented by the distribution pattern of the South African biomes.

PHYSIOGRAPHIC FEATURES

Physiographic regions

The structure of South Africa features three clearly identifiable main physiographic regions. They are the plateau or highveld, the marginal slopes and the coastal plains separated by the great escarpment as shown on map 1.

Watersheds

The physiographic features determine the drainage pattern of South Africa. The escarpment is South Africa's major watershed. The coastal plains and marginal slopes beneath the escarpment contain the river catchments draining eastwards and southwards with the Orange River forming the plateau westwards. The homogeneous response

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zones with the grouping of drainage regions are shown on map 2 and
the primary drainage regions on map 3.

ECOSYSTEMS
Water-producing ecosystems

Rainfall and the resultant hydrological processes determine water
yield as the major contributor to the crucial ecological and life
support systems.

Food-producing ecosystems

The most important ecological processes relating to soil and plant
production show the potential of the South African ecosystems for
food production in relation to different regions.

Vegetation

The close relationship between the South African veld-types and
rainfall, physiographic regions and watersheds represents an
important environmental criterium for regional delimitation.

REGIONAL DELIMITATION BASED ON
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Physiographic features are the main determinants for regional
delimitation. They determine watersheds which form the main
territorial units for regional subdivision. They are clearly identifiable
with boundaries marked by topogrphical highlands and unified in
river basins and drainage valleys. Thus the physical features of the
landscape determined by topography are the most reliable criteria to
define regions. This is particularly so because physical buffers such

streekindeling. Dit is veral s6 omdat fisiese buffers soos bergreekse relatief homogene natuurstelsels, menslike vestiging en ekonomiese aktiwiteit binne verenigde opvanggebiede omsluit. Omgewings-eienskappe het op hierdie wyse 'n diepgaande invloed op die geskiedenis van menslike vestiging in die algemeen en in Suidelike Afrika in die besonder gehad. Bergreekse skei en riviervalleie verenig. Om hierdie rede moet riviere nie politieke of administratiewe grense vorm nie.

Dit is ook aksiomaties dat water die mees strategiese omgewings-hulpbron vir die toekomstige ontwikkeling van Suid-Afrika is. Die volgehoue gebruik daarvan, beide wat hoeveelheid en gehalte betref, kan slegs bereik word deur geïntegreerde waterbestuur binne verenigde wateropvanggebiede wat ononderbroke is deur oorvleuelende, en dikwels, kompeterende owerhede. Hierdie vereiste maak dit ook wenslik dat streke en wateropvanggebiede ooreenstem.

Lewensondersteuningstelsels en veral daardie wat verband hou met water, voedselproduksie en die Suid-Afrikaanse biome, is belangrike ekologiese determinante. Alhoewel dit 'n volledige prentjie gee van die omgewingseienskappe wat verband hou met streke is hierdie faktore egter nie die belangrike omgewingskriteria vir afbakening nie. Die belangrikste determinante bly steeds die fisiografiese kenmerke. Op hierdie wyse sal die voorgestelde streke egter die raamwerk voorsien vir die effektiewe holistiese bestuur van al die omgewingshulpbronne en lewensondersteuningstelsels onder verenigde bestuur.

Die groot voordeel vir doeltreffende omgewingsbestuur gebaseer op streke afgebaken volgens omgewingskriteria is grootliks gebaseer op die oorsprong van Suid-Afrika se waterproduksie. Dit is duidelik dat die eskarpement en sy verwante bergreekse die hoofbron van Suid-Afrika se water is. Deur die eskarpement en ander bergreekse as streekgrense te gebruik kan hulle strategiese waterproduksiefunksie effektief beskerm en bestuur word. Die moontlikheid bestaan selfs

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om enkellyngrense uit te brei na grenssones. Sulke bergreservaat
grenssones sal al die berghooglande insluit en verkieslik deur 'n
enkele bergowerheid bestuur word. Die statutêre basis hiervoor
bestaan reeds in die Wet op Bergopvanggebiede, 1970 (Wet 63 van
1970) wat voorsiening maak vir die bewaring en bestuur van berge
en hulle waterbronne.

Kaart 4 is die sintese van die toepassing van omgewingskriteria op
streekafbakening vir Suid-Afrika. Dit verteenwoordig die voorstel
van die Raad vir die Omgewing vir streke vir Suid-Afrika gebaseer
op omgewingskriteria. Kaart 6 toon sommige alternatiewe grense
wat gekies kan word. Beide kaarte 4 en 6 word op kaarte 5 en 7
herhaal ten einde duidelik te kan vergelyk tussen die voorstel vir die
streke (kaart 4) en die alternatiewe streke (kaart 6) met alle bestaande
provinsiale grense asook dié van onafhanklike en selfregerende state.
'n Volledige beskrywing van die streke verskyn later.

Alhoewel die voorstel dus hoofsaaklik gebaseer is op omgewings-
kriteria sal dit ook die toets deurstaan wanneer dit opgeweeg word
teen die ander kriteria vir streekafbakening soos politieke
administrasie, ekonomie, kultuur en bevolkingsverspreiding. Dit sal
dus â\200\231'n basis voorsien vir nie slegs doeltreffende omgewingsbestuur
vir die volgehoue gebruik van ons omgewingshulpbronne nie, maar
ook vir ekonomiese ontwikkeling, menslike vestiging en politieke
administrasie.

Ten slotte is dit belangrik om daarop te let dat Suid-Afrika tans 'n
nasionale strategie vir ekotoerisme, gebaseer op die beleidsdirektiewe
van die 1992 Witskrif vir Toerisme, ontwikkel. So â\200\231'n strategie moet
gebou word op ekotoerisme bestemmings by unieke natuurlike bates
en op ekotoerisme ontwikkelingsplanne vir elke streek. Waar streke

afgebaken word op grond van omgewingsoorwegings, soos in hierdie voorstel, kan ekotoerisme met sy geweldige potensiaal as verdieners van buitelandse valuta, optimaal ontwikkel word.

PRIMERE STREKE

Die primêre streke is die volgende:

1. ORANJE/VAAL

Dit is die groot Sentrale Plato wat bestaan uit die opvanggebied van die Oranje- en Vaalriviere. Dit sluit die Oranje-Vrystaat, Wes-Transvaal, Noordwes-Kaap en die hele Groot Karoo tot by die mond van die Oranjerivier in.

. LIMPOPO/OLIFANTS

Noordelike en Oostelike Transvaal sluit die waterskeidings in wat weswaarts na die Limpopo en ooswaarts na die Laeveld dreineer. Dit sluit Pietersburg en Louis Trichardt in die noorde en Nelspruit in die ooste in. Venda, Gazankulu, Lebowa, KwaNdebele en die oostelike gedeelte van Bophuthatswana val daarinne.

TUGELA/MGENI

Hierdie KwaZulu-Natalgebied sluit die meeste van die opvanggebiede in wat vanaf die Drakensberg na die Indiese Oseaan dreineer. Die suidelike en noordelike grense is geleë op die waterskeiding van sekondêre rivieropvanggebiede. Dit bestaan uit KwaZulu, die Newcastle-Durban en die Noord- en Suidkus ontwikkelingsasse.

KEI/UMZIMVUBU

Dit is die Oostelike Provinsie wat die Ciskei en Transkei insluit met die Oos-Londen-Queenstown as.

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5. CAPE Â®

South Western Cape covers the watersheds south and west of the escarpment including the folded sandstone mountain ranges of the Western Province up to the Cederberg and eastwards to the western edge of the Fish River basin. It contains the Cape Town and Port Elizabeth urban areas. The Little Karoo and the Cape Midlands are included.

6. PWV

Pretoria - Witwatersrand - Vereeniging is the major metropolitan region of economic activity. It cannot be defined on environmental criteria and therefore straddles the upper reaches of three watersheds. Although the present boundary of the PWV is shown on the map, this could be adjusted according to economic or other non-environmental criteria.

The 6 primary regions therefore are the following:

Orange/Vaal
Limpopo/Olifants
Tugela/Mgeni
Kei/Umzimvubu
Cape

PWV

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The major boundaries of these primary regions are delineated on map 4. On map 6 alternative boundaries are shown. These alternative or additional boundaries may be selected to follow the boundaries of secondary watersheds or selected on criteria other than environmental.

&
ALTERNATIEWE STREKE

1A ORANJE/1B VAAL

Die Sentrale Oranje-Vaalstreek kan in twee afsonderlike streke verdeel word. 1A (Oranje) sal die Groot Karoo en Noordwes-Kaap insluit en 1B (Vaal) die meeste van die huidige Oranje-Vrystaat en Wes-Transvaal.

. 2A LIMPOPO/2B OLIFANTS/2C BOPHUTHATSWANA

Noordelike en Oostelike Transvaal kan drie streke word met die hoofskedding tussen die oostelike waterskeidings (Streek 2B) en dié wat weswaarts na die Limpopo dreineer (Streek 2A). Die noordwestelike gebied kan 'n aparte streek wees met grense op Botswana, noord by Thabazimbi en suid benede Kuruman. Dit sal meebring dat die hele Bophuthatswana in streek 2C val.

. TUGELA/MGENI

Betreklik min verandering sal heelwaarskynlik nodig wees wat betref die suidelike grens. Die noordelike grens kan suid afgeskuif word om ooreen te stem met die noordelike grens van die Pongola-opvanggebied.

. KEI/'UMZIMVUBU

Kan Port Elizabeth en die Kaapse Middellande of insluit of uitsluit deur die grens te plaas langs die waterskeiding tussen die Vis- en Sondagsriviere of wes van die Gamtoos-opvanggebied.

. KAAP

Die noordelike grens kan suidwaarts verskuif word om meer van die noordelike gedeelte van die Weskus by die Sentrale

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CAPE

The northern boundary may be moved down southwards to include more of the northern section of the West Coast into the Central Orange River region. Its eastern boundary can be adjusted to exclude Port Elizabeth and the Cape Midlands or to coincide with the western boundary of the Kei/Umzimvubu region described above.

PWV

PWV - region boundaries may be adjusted according to economic or other non-environmental criteria.

The above alternative delimitation may increase the number of regions from 6 to 9. The 9 regions will therefore be the following:

1A Orange

1B Vaal

2A Limpopo

2B Olifants

2C Bophuthatswana
Tugela/Mgeni
Kei/Umzimvubu

Cape
PWV

COMPARISON WITH THE REGIONS AS PROPOSED
BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE DELIMITATION
OF REGIONS

Since the submission by the Council for the Environment of these proposals for regions for South Africa on 8 July 1993, the Commission for the Delimitation of Regions has presented its

proposal to the Negotiating Council on 31 July 1993.

The question is: how do these two proposals compare? Maps 5a and 7a show the Commission's proposal compared with that of the Council for the Environment. The former proposes 9 regions and the Council 6 (primary) and 9 (alternative) regions. There is, therefore, general agreement. To bring the Commission's proposals for regional boundaries more in line with environmental considerations certain adjustments will have to be made. In this way South Africa's natural resources will be conserved and managed in the best manner to ensure sustainable use for future generations. The following adjustments are necessary -

1. Regional boundaries should follow natural boundaries and not magisterial district boundaries.

The boundary between the Northern and Western Cape regions should coincide with the escarpment.

The boundary between the Northern Cape, the Eastern Cape and the Orange Free State should not be the Orange River. There are two possible solutions. Firstly, the southern Orange Free State boundary can be moved northwards to coincide with the boundary of the Orange River catchment. Secondly, the easterly point of the Northern Cape boundary can be moved southwards to place the boundary with the Eastern Cape on the escarpment.

The boundary between North-Western Transvaal and the Orange Free State should coincide with the boundary of the Vaal River Catchment, placing it more north-westerly than the proposed boundary.

The boundary between Northern and Eastern Transvaal follows the Olifants River. It is wrong for boundaries to

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follow rivers. The boundary should either be southwards or
preferably northwards on the catchment bounda@of the
Olifants River.

The boundary between the Western and Eastern Cape should
move easterly to the western boundary of the Sundays River
catchment.

On 5 September 1993 the Commission also posed an open invitation

- for comments on specific aspects of its proposal. These aspects and

the Councilâ\200\231s response to them (as presented to the Commission
orally and in writing) are the following:

a)

b)

c)

d)

Eastern Transvaal: the proposed borders, with reference to the question of whether this region should include Pretoria, KwaNdebele , Bronkhorstspuit, Middelburg, and Witbank. The position of the Kruger National Park.

No comments on the PWV boundaries or the inclusion of Pretoria. The position of the Kruger National Park is dealt with in 5 above.

PWYV: whether this region should exclude Sasolburg, Pretoria and those parts of Bophuthatswana located in it. Secondly, whether Pretoria should be located in the Witwatersrand-Vereeniging region.

No comment from an environmental point of view.

Orange Free State: whether this region should be combined with the North West region:

See 4 above.

Eastern Cape/Transkei/Ciskei: whether this region should be one or two regions and the boundaries thereof:

See 6 above. Details are also contained in the original proposal of the Council of the Environment.

Western Cape: whether this region should be combined with part of the Northern Cape to make one region:

See 2 above.

Northern Transvaal: whether this region should include

Pretoria, Groblersdal, Pilgrimâ\200\231s Rest and Hammanskraal.
The position of the Kruger National Park:

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Northern Cape: whether the northern boundary of this region ALIAVWI

should include Kuruman and Postmasburg, and whether Namaqualand should be excluded from the region:

The Councilâ\200\231s proposal includes Kuruman in its region 2c and Namaqualand in region 1a (Northern Cape).

KwaZulu/Natal: whether the Umzumkhulu/Mount Currie area should be included in this region:

No comment from an environmental point of view.

MAPS

The following computer-generated maps were included in the presentation to the Commission on the Delimitation of Regions as shown here:

1 S@@ture of South Africa showing the plateau and the coastal plains and marginal slopes with the great escarpment in between.

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2 Homogeneous response zones with the grouping of drainage regions.

3 Primary drainage regions.

4 Proposed regions for South Africa.

5 Proposed regions compared to the existing boundaries of the provinces and the independent and self governing states.

5a Proposed regions compared to the proposal of the Commission for the Delimitation of Regions as well as to existing boundaries of the provinces and the independent and self governing states.

6 Alternative regions.

7 Alternative regions compared to the existing boundaries of the provinces and the independent and self governing states.

7a Alternative regions compared to the proposal of the Commission for the Delimitation of Regions as well as to existing boundaries of the provinces and the independent and self governing states.

In the presentation to the Commission the following colour coded maps were also used, but are not included in this publication:

8 Water production of the various river basins.

9 Potential food production in terms of biomass.

10 South African biomes.

11 Veld types in relation to the escarpment.

12 Present language distribution based upon language dominance in comparison with the proposed regions.

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KAARTMAP 1 | JULIE/ULY 1993

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ALTERNATIEWE STREKE IN VERGELYKING MET BESTAANDE GRENSE =
ALTERNATIVE REGIONS COMPARED TO PRESENT BOUNDARIES i ki mh s

INSLUITEND DIE VOORSTEL VAN DIE KOMMISSIE VIR DIE AFBAKENING
VAN STREKE/INCLUDING THE PROPOSAL OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE
DELIMITATION OF REGIONS

TUGELA / MGEN
K/ WZMEy
CAPE
WV

TBVC STATE / STATES

TT] NASOHALE STATE / KATONAL STATES
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KAARTMAP 7 a] JULIESULY 1993

OQAXTIMENT VAN WATRWESE
DEPAITMENT CF WATZZ AITAIRS

GIOGRANESE INUGTINGSTRSAL-
LABCRATORMM

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LABCRATORY

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ALTERNATIEWE STREKE IN VERGELYKING MET BESTAANDE GRENSE
ALTERNATIVE REGIONS COMPARED TO PRESENT BOUNDARIES

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(GROEPERING VAN DREINERINGSTREKE / GROLPING OF DRAINAGE REGIONS)

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SLEUTEL / LEGEND

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RSA CRINS / RSA BOMDARY

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PROPOSED REGIONAL BOUMDARES

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KAARTMAP 7 | JULIEAULY 1993

DEPAXTIMINT VAN WATERWLSE
DEPARTMENT OF WATEX AFTARS

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GEOGRAPHIC IN-ORMATION SYSTBS
ABORATORY

RAMD VIR DIE OMGEWING
COUNCIL FOR THE BNVIROMENT

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SLEUTEL / LEGEND

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DEPAXTBMENT VAN WATERWESE
DEPAXTMENT OF WATER AFFARS

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LABORATORY

RAAD VR DIf OMGFWING
COUNCIL FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

DIPARTIMENT VAN OMGIWINGSAXE

DIPARTMINT OF ENVIRONMINT
AFFAIRS

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PRIMERE DREINERININGSTREKE / PRIMARY DRAINAGE REGIONS

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AL [O MEA FROECTIN STNOND PAULLAS TS MO XS
MCOTLUROUAR / COMRAL MO : 25 005/AST

ALTERNATIEWE STREKE / ALTERNATIVE REGIONS

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MICELMTAN / COMRAL WM : 25 008/EAST

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JULIE/ULY 1993

DEPAXTDMENT VAN WATERWESE
DEPAXTMENT OF WATER AFFARS

GEOGRAFESE .
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GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTOVS
LABORATORY

RAAD VIR DIE OMGEWING
COUNCIL FOR THE BWIRONWENT

DEPARTEMENT VAN OMGIWINGSAKE
DEPARTMENT OF ONMENT
NTARS e

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SLEUTEL / LEGEND
PROVNCL BOUNDARES
RSA GRENS / RSA BOLNDARY
Â® DORPE/STEDE / MAJR TOWNS

= === YOORGESTELDE STREEXSCREENSE

PROPOSED RECIONAL BOUNDARES

ADOSIONELE ONDERVERDELNG/
ADOTIONAL SUBDIVISION

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2 BOPHUTHAT SWANA

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4 KB / WawWBY
H] CAPE
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KAARTMAP & | JULIEIULY 1993
a OCPARTDMINT VAN WATIRWESE

DEPARTMENT OF WATIR ASFARS

GIOCRAVESE 2UCTNCSTRSA
ABCRATORM

GEOCIAPHEC INFORMATION SYSTDMS
LABCRATORY

RAAD VR CIf DM-MGC
COANCIL FOR THE DN IRONVENT

A DEPARTEMENT VAN OMGIWINGSAXE
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%y NTARS

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PROPOSED REGIONS COMPARED TO PRESENT BOUNDARIES ;

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VAN STREKE/INCLUDING THE PROPOSAL OF TIE COMMISSION FOR THE L et
DELIMITATION OF REGIONS :

LWPORO / OLFANTS
TGOA / WGDN

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KAARTMAP 5a | JULIEZALY 1993

DEPAXTEMENT VAN WATDIWESE

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AIDS UL MOA MOSTRON STHOND PRALAS Â¥'S 40 X'S
SEEMDOWS / COMMAL MW : 25 GOS/LAST

SLEUTEL / LEGBND

- === PROVNSWLE GRENSE

RSA GRDVS / RSA BOVNDRY
VOORGESTELDE STREKE VIR SUID-AFRIKA o DORL/STIDE / WAKR Tomes
PROPOSED REGIONS FOR SOUTH AFRICA

Â@ PETERSBLRG = === VOORGESTOLDL Â\$

TREEXSGRINSE
PROPOSED REGIONAL BOUNDARES

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2 LMPOPO / OLFANTS
3 TUGELA / WMGEN
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STREEK / REGION 5

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MRS / CORML MOEM 1 X7 SORAUST

VOORGESTELDE STREKE IN VERGELYKING MET BESTAANDE GRENSE
PROPOSED REGIONS COMPARED TO PRESENT BOUNDARIES

STREEK / REGION 1

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Â® LANGSBURG
STREEK / REGION 5

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EAST/005 LONDON

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ALBERS EQUAL WREA PROECTIN, STAOAD PARALLAS 7S NO XT'S
MOCELMERDWAN / CENTRAL MERDAN : 23 008 /EAST

SLEUTEL / LEGEND

â\200\224 - â\200\224 - PROVNSILE CRENSE
PROVNCL BOUNDARES

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Â® DORPE/STEDE / MAJOR TOWNS

= === VOORGESTELDE STREEXSGRENSE
PROPOSED REGIONAL BOUNDARES

STREEX/REGION

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KAARTMAP 5 | NLIERLY 1993

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DEPARTEMENT VAN WATERWESE
DEPAXTMENT OF WATER AFFARS

GEOGRAFIESE
LABORATORRM

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTBMS
LABORATORY

RAD VR DIE OMGEWING
COUNCIL FOR THE BNVIROMENT

DEPARTEMENT VAN OMGEWINGSAKE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
ANTARS