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project



SETTING THE SCENE – RABIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

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(South African Rabies Advisory Group)*



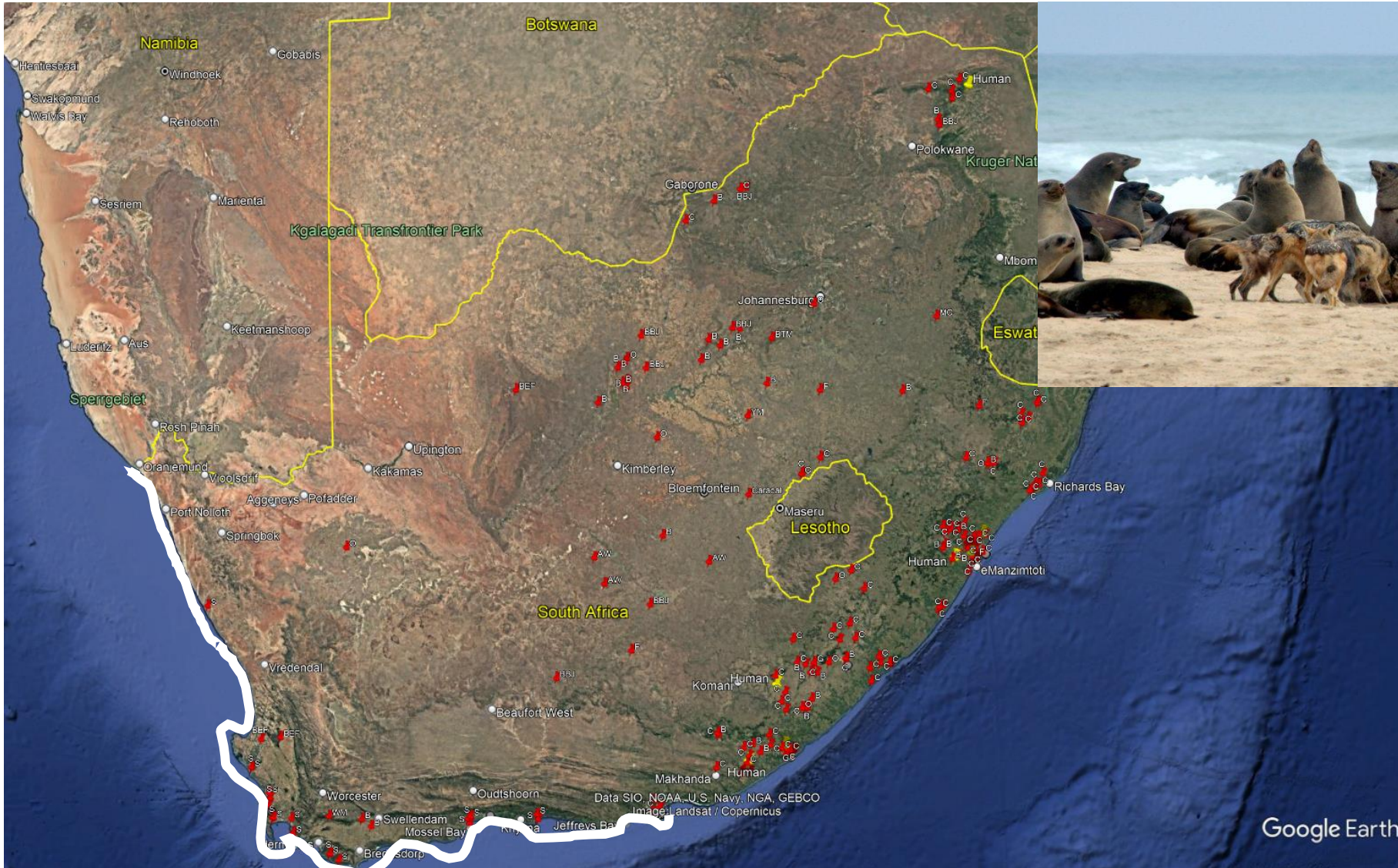
United Against Rabies Meeting

23 – 25 September 2024

Cape Town, South Africa



Seal Rabies in 1 min!!!

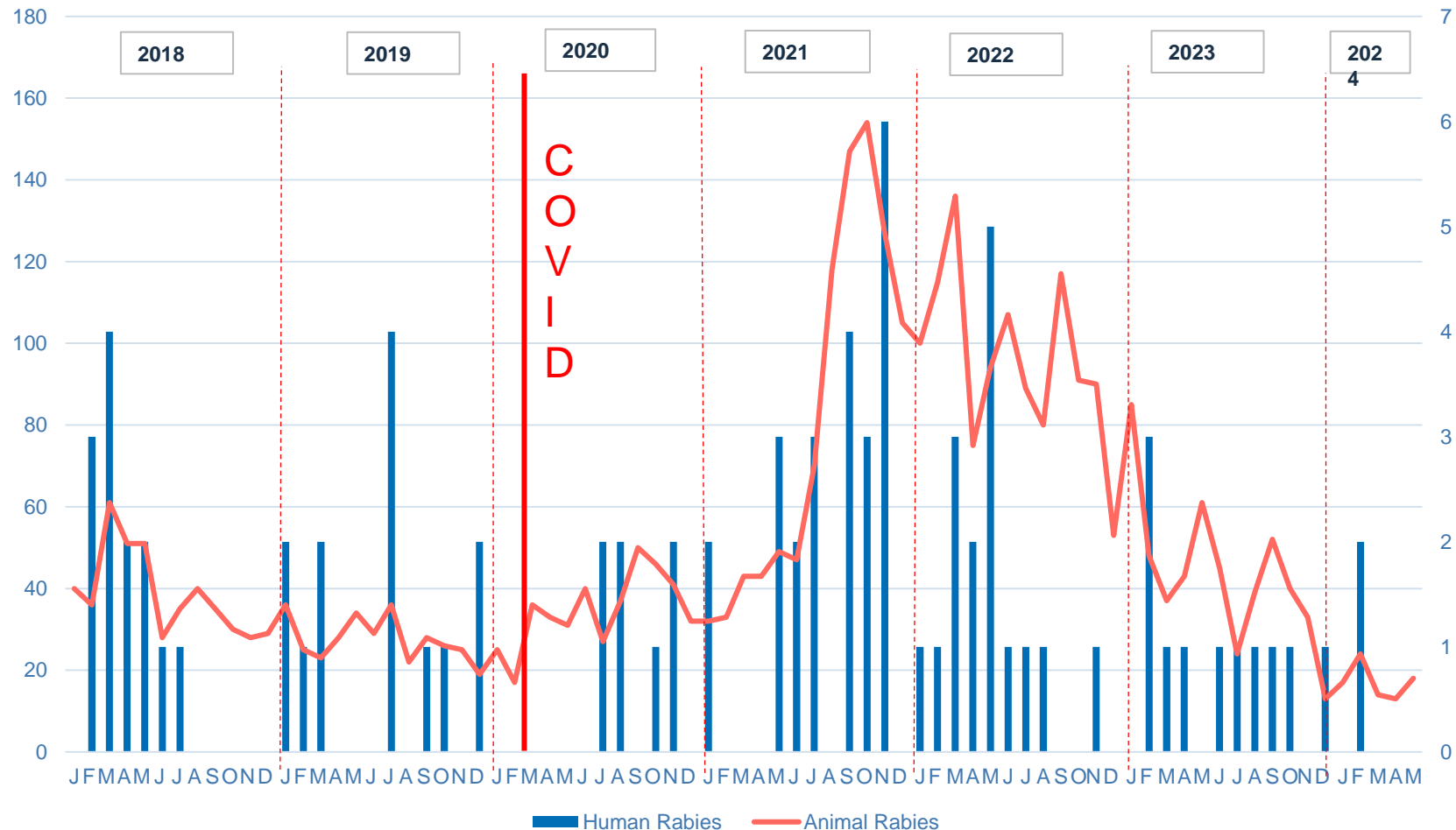


- **2 Million Cape fur Seals**
- **Constant contact with wildlife rabies cycles**
- **Likely Jackal cycle from west coast including Namibia, possibly including Angola.**
- **Seals travel vast distances.**
- **Diagnosed across entire range of their habitat.**



Changing Socio/Political Environment Impacting Rabies

SA Rabies 2018-2024

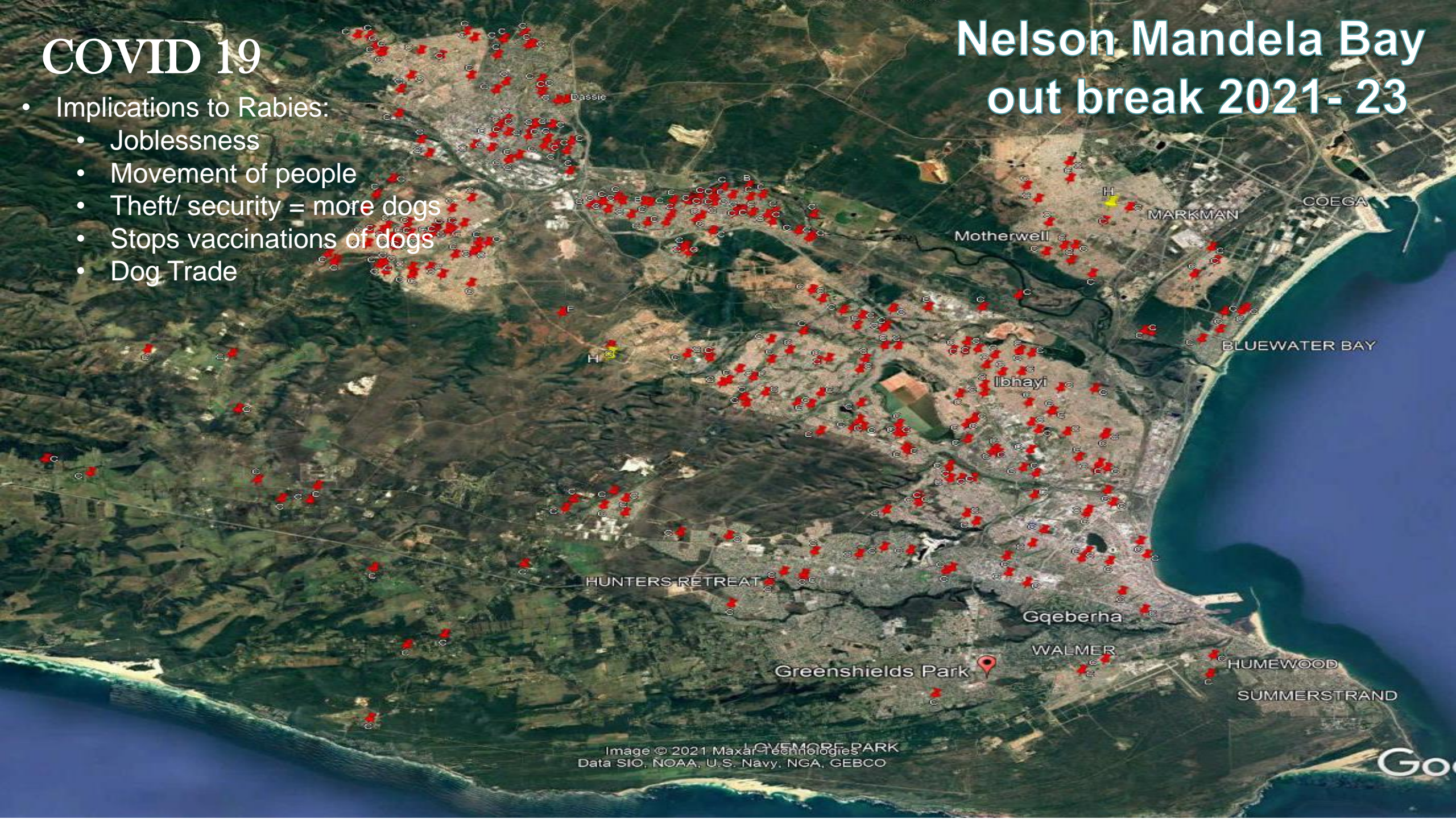


- Impact of COVID on Rabies in SA.
- Need for Social Studies are key to understanding movement and control

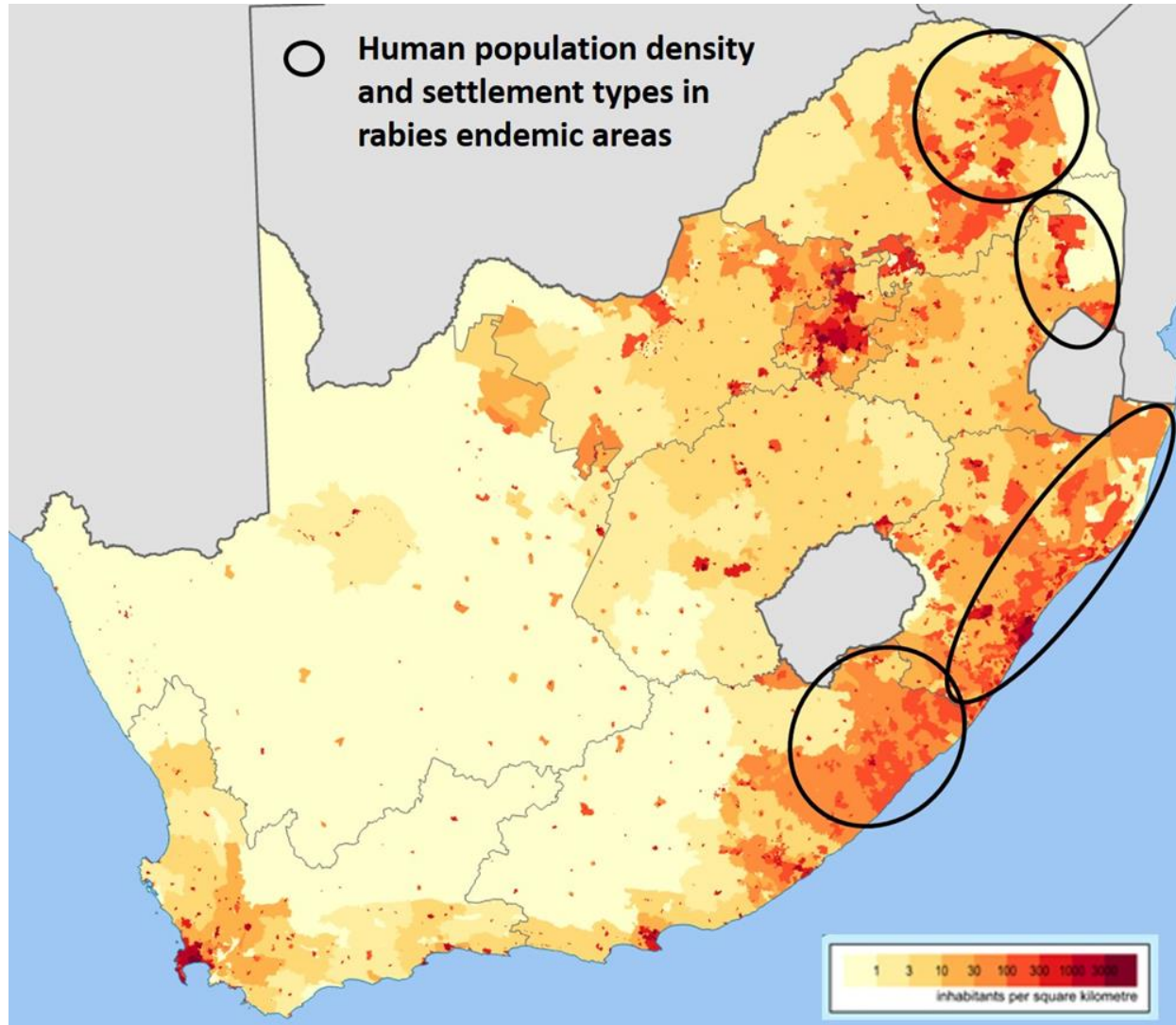
COVID 19

- Implications to Rabies:
 - Joblessness
 - Movement of people
 - Theft/ security = more dogs
 - Stops vaccinations of dogs
 - Dog Trade

Nelson Mandela Bay out break 2021- 23



To stop Human rabies in South Africa, these are the focal areas.

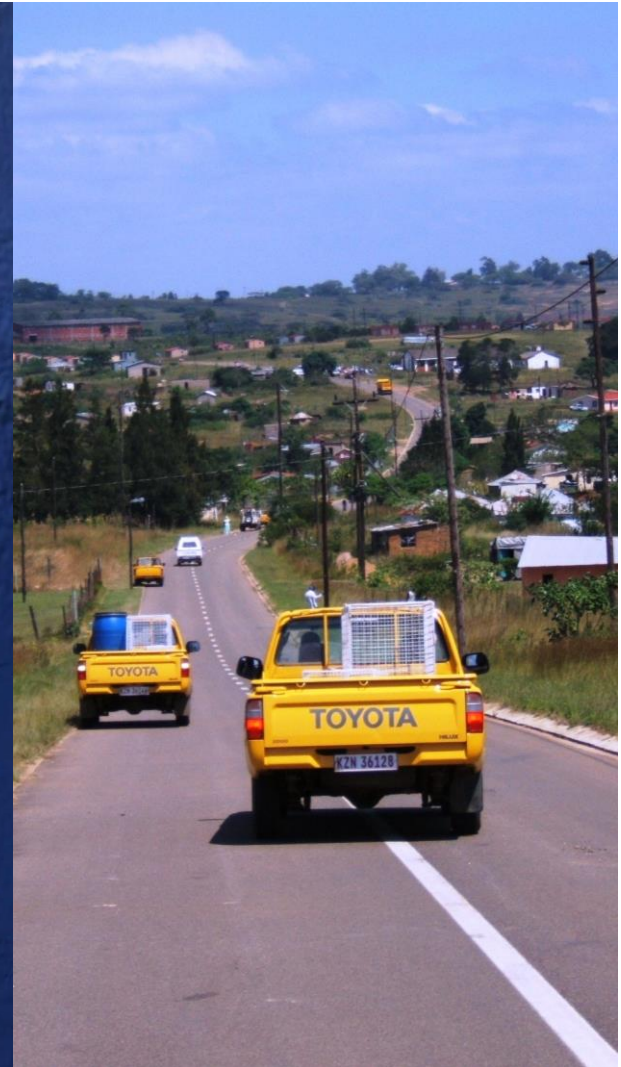
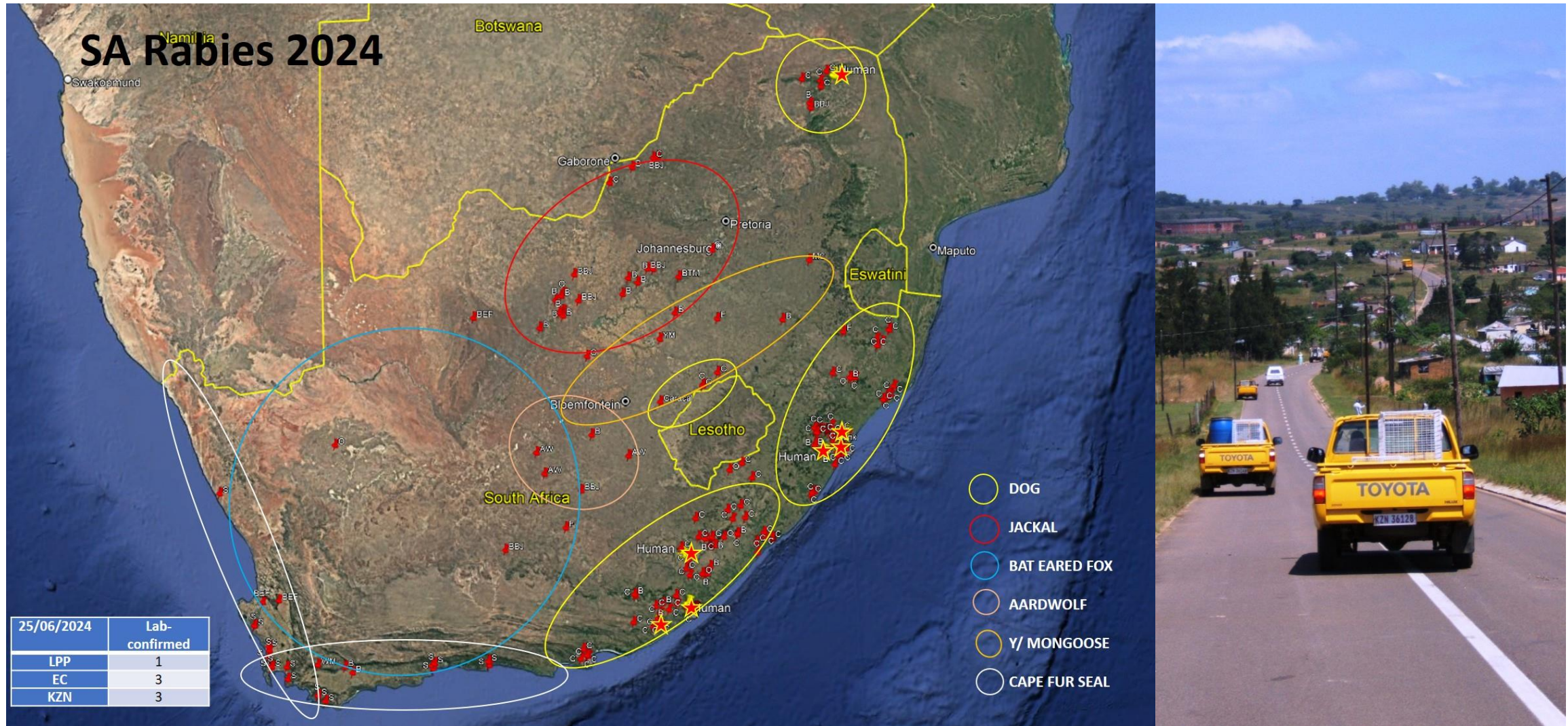


- Understanding epidemiology of the disease to focus efforts.
- Relatively small geographical areas need to be targeted to break cycles. (not the entire country)
- Strong One Health dedicated system to drive national plan.
- Supporting veterinary Services in these key areas.(Next pandemic)





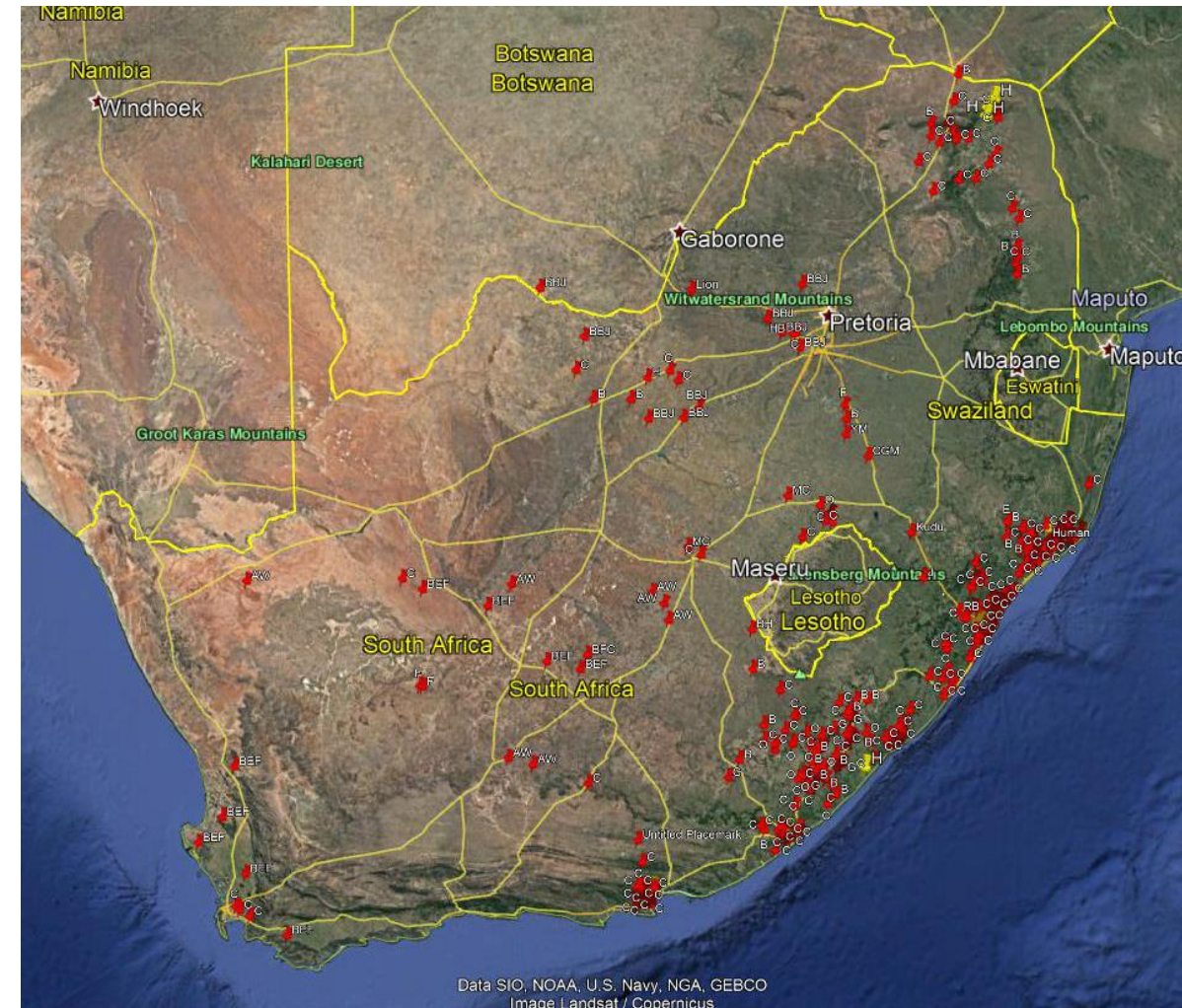
Geographical Distribution of Rabies in South Africa





International Borders

- Understanding Rabies in Border regions (Epidemiologically)
- SA has six borders with other countries, with mostly insignificant settlements and movement of dogs.
- Only on one boarder (Lesotho) is there a small number of cross border incursions of the disease.
- SADC regional strategy.
- Bilateral meetings and communications between officials.
- Don't believe that movement of the disease will impact outcome of control efforts.



Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image Landsat / Copernicus

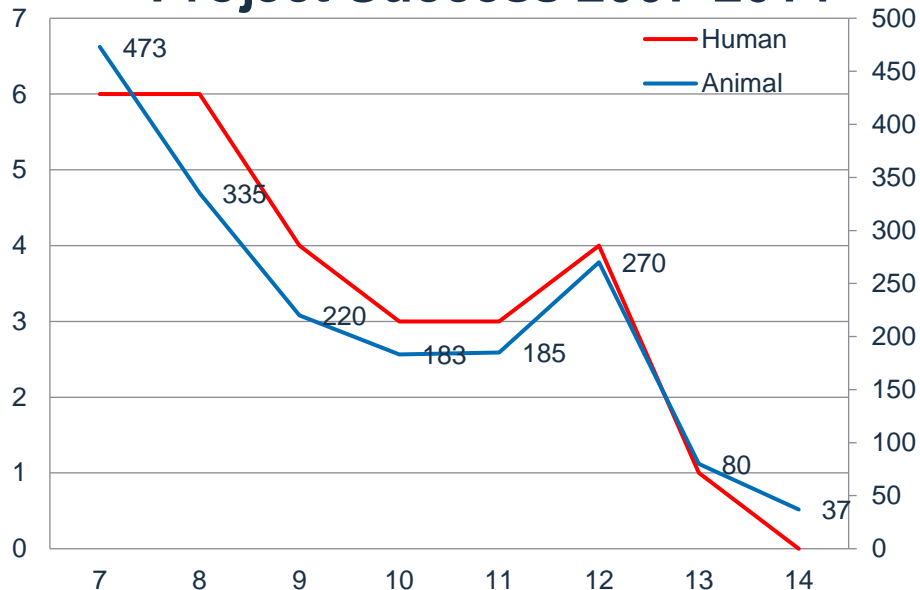
KWAZULU-NATAL RABIES ELIMINATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT



Both the success of the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation Rabies Elimination Demonstration project, and subsequent failures are equally important in understanding future control in South Africa.

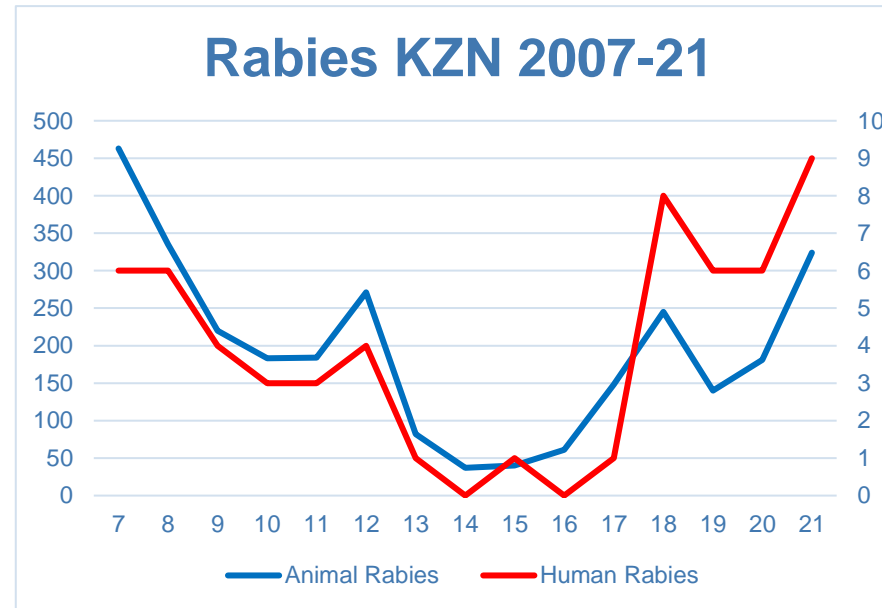
Typical vaccination point on mass mobile campaigns

Project Success 2007-2014



**What is needed for success?
(Politics and Preparedness)**

Rabies KZN 2007-21

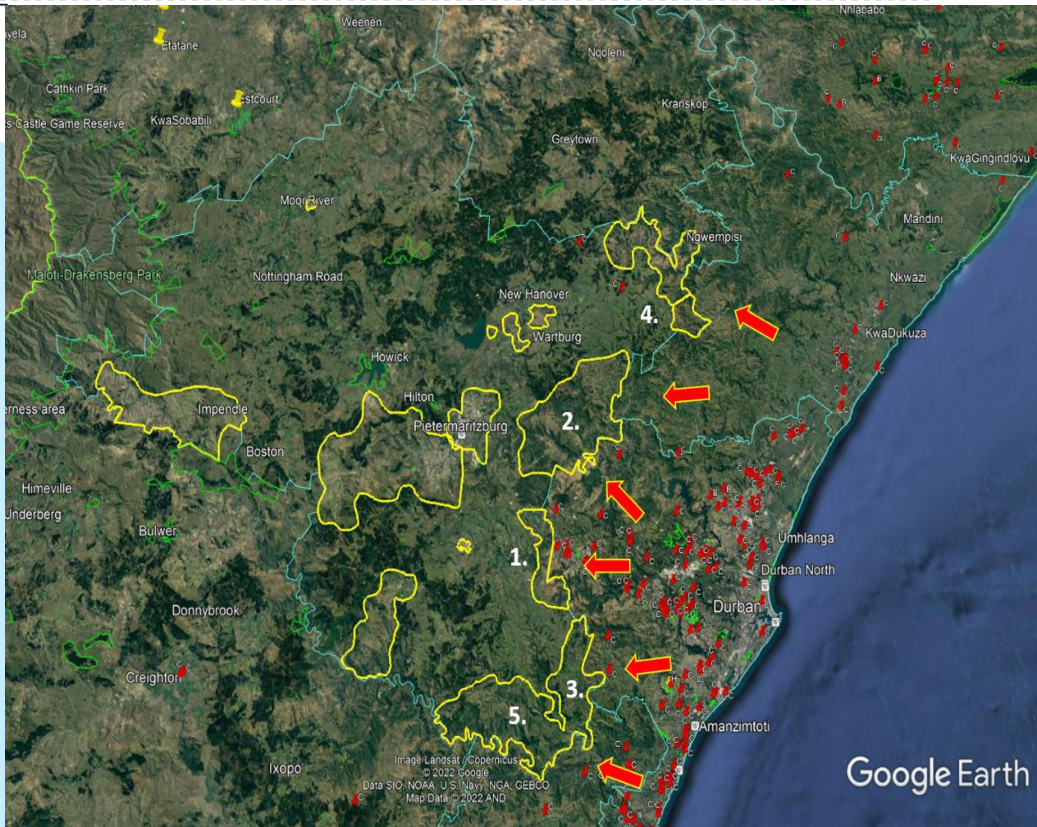
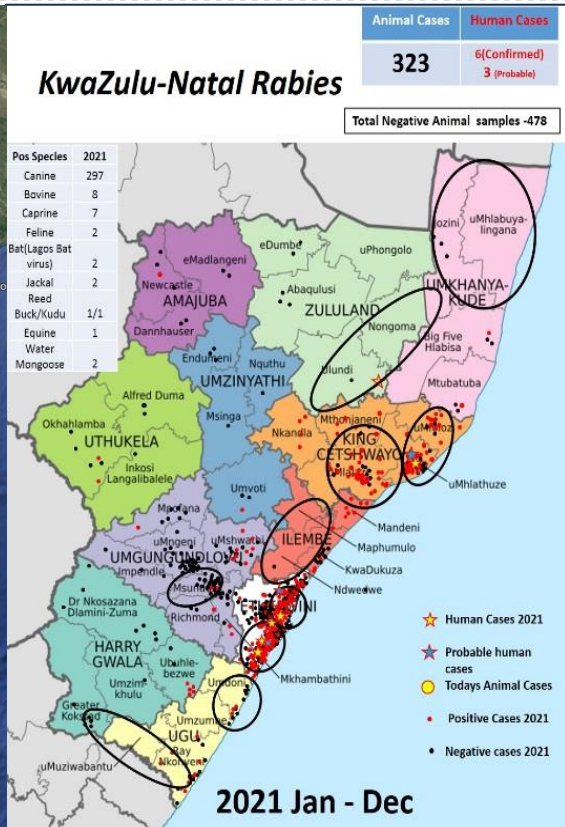
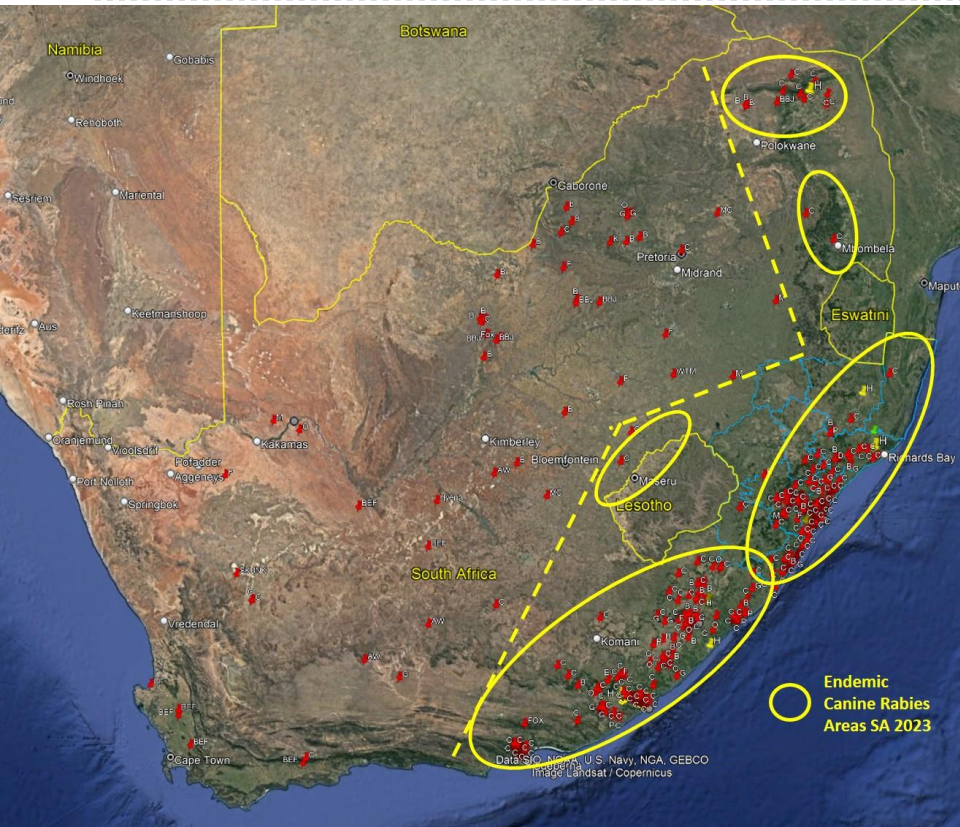


**Why did we fail to maintain control?
(Politics)**





Rabies Strategy for South Africa



National Strategy

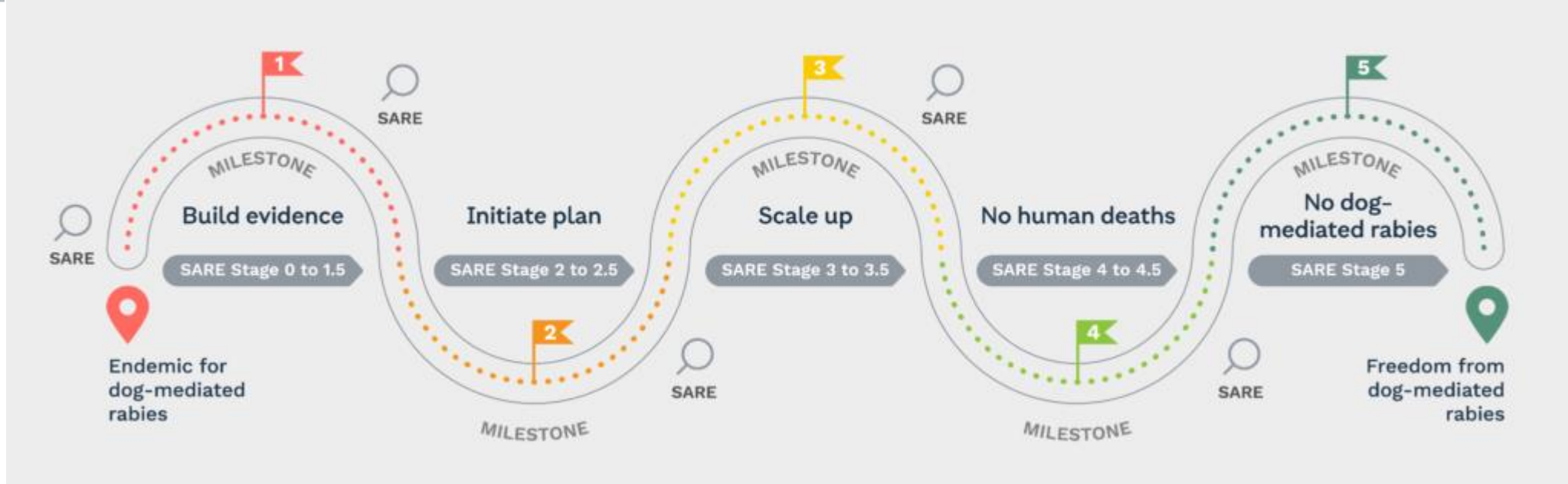
Provincial Strategy

District Strategy

Planning down to the local municipal Level – Developing all the local tools for implementation.



Road Map

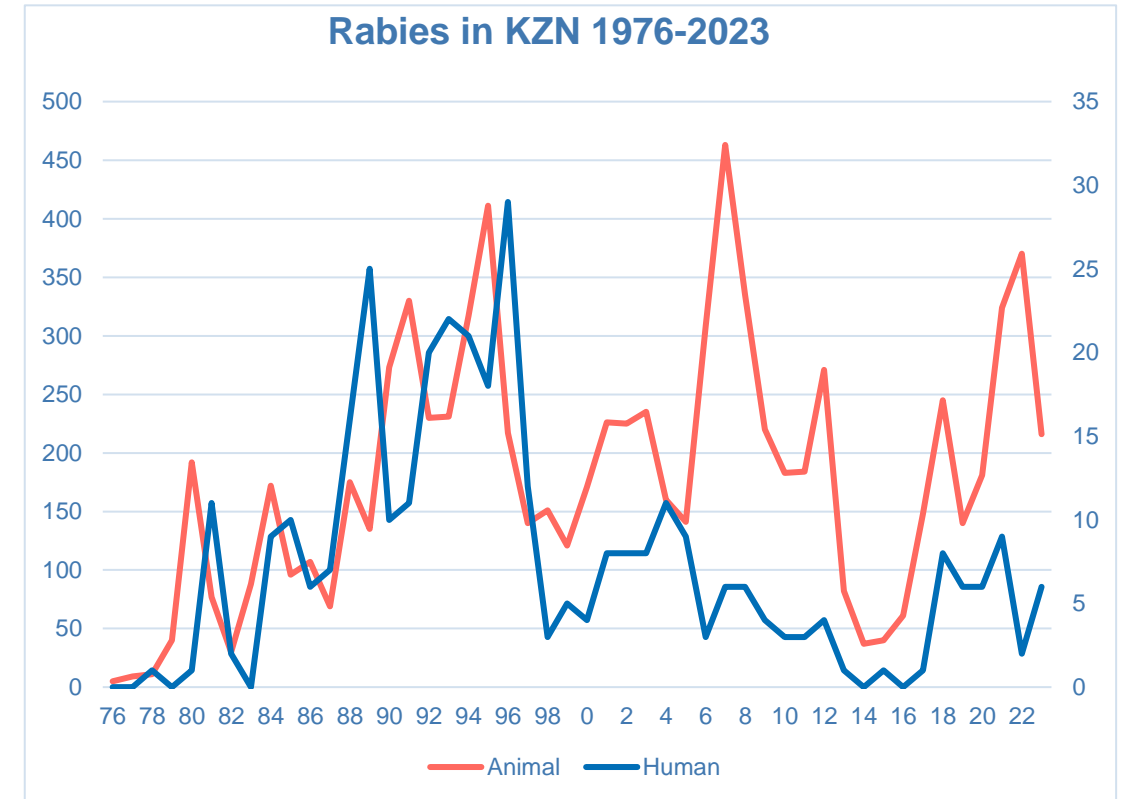


- SA is in the Scale up phase.
- Dedicated National Advisory team that is now more implementation orientated.
- Public awareness is being dramatically ramped up – But needs to be backed by operational capacity.
- Still need significant Political Support for mass implementation. (Implementation of the law)
- Developed many local tools for implementation and new Private partnership offer exciting opportunities.



Post Exposure Prophylaxis

- ❖ Controlling the disease in dogs is the only way to truly stop human deaths! (cannot be treated away)
- ❖ SA has a good PEP systems with free vaccine and Immunoglobulin available.
- ❖ In the 1990 PEP was rolled out more effective and in combination with dog vaccinations suppressed the level of human fatalities. (One Health)
- ❖ Why do people still die?
 - Die in areas of high prevalence of dog rabies.
 - Lack of knowledge(Minor wounds) – Simply do not seek treatment.
 - Remoteness of location.
 - Occasional failure at treatment center.





Conclusion

- ❖ We have all the tools - It is all about “Implementation”
- ❖ Political support – International; national and local.
- ❖ Preparation
- ❖ Rabies can be the blue print for One Health
- ❖ Veterinary Services is more important than we think.
- ❖ Supporting Rabies control in Human health can impact welfare which can improve childhood development.



World Rabies Day 2024



Dog – Child – Family – Community – Society



THANK YOU!

(Photos courtesy of
the Funda Nenja
project)