

Beyond the western boundary. A database of metadata for the lowveld

Tony Swemmer

Nikki Stevens

SAEON Ndlovu Node

Phalaborwa

Kruger National Park

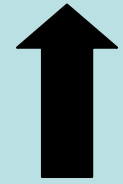


Introduction



- Background to SAEON
- Metadata database
 - Purpose
 - Value to research in KNP
 - Structure
 - Current state
- Other SAEON news

- The South African **Environmental Observation Network**
 - www.saeon.ac.za
- *A comprehensive, sustained, co-ordinated and responsive South African earth observation network that delivers **long-term reliable data** for scientific research and informs decision-making*
- A network, not a funding organization
 - Facilities
 - Co-ordination
 - Synthesis
- Education



SAEON Nodes

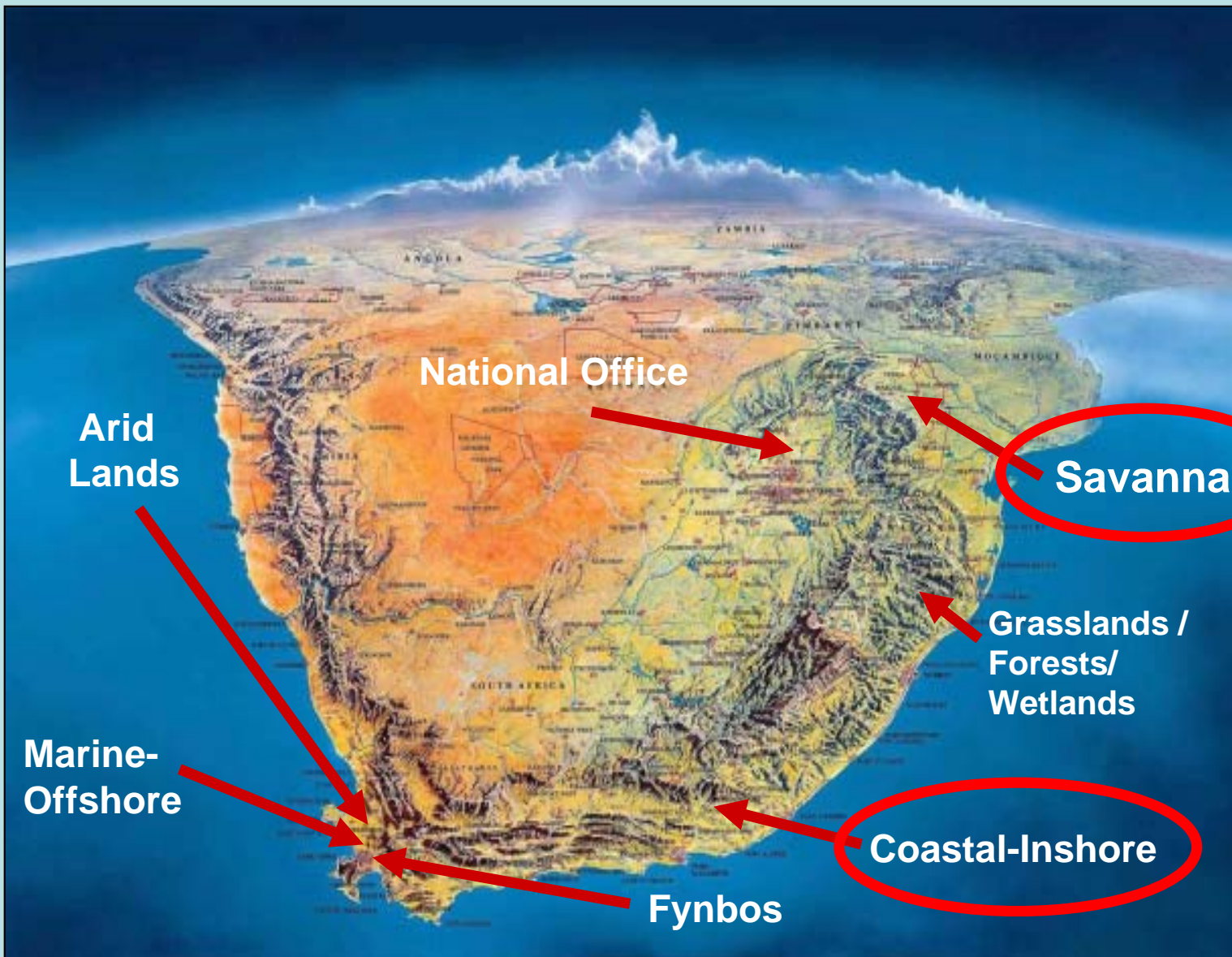


SAEON Nodes



Ndlovu Node

- Hosted by KNP
- Phalaborwa
- Entire savanna biome



Metadata database - objectives



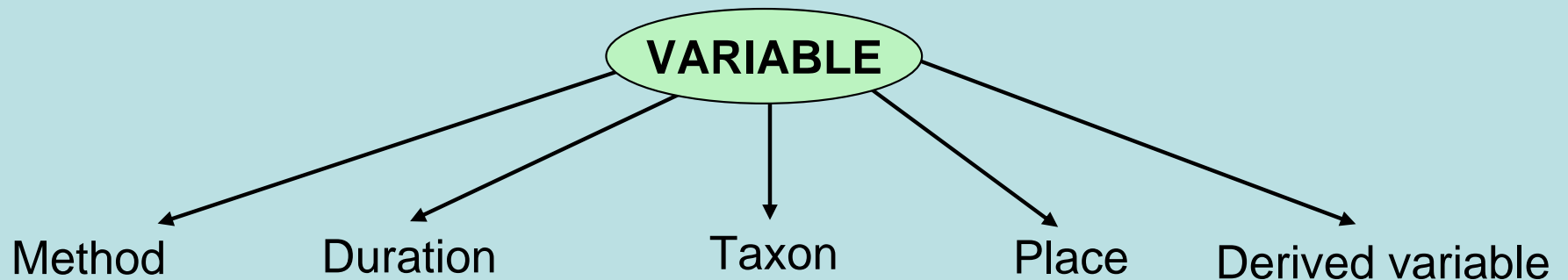
1. Asses current state of knowledge

- Past and current research
- What data has been collected
 - No models, reviews, meta-analyses
- Published and unpublished
- More than a catalogue - map, summarize, query
 - Requires classification of variables measured
 - Temporal: once-off, on-going
 - Spatial: location, extent
 - Nature: physical, ecological, socio-ecological...

2. Tool for planning research

- e.g. for KNP:
 - Where has tree size class distribution been measured?
 - What water quality variables are measured in each river entering KNP? And where?

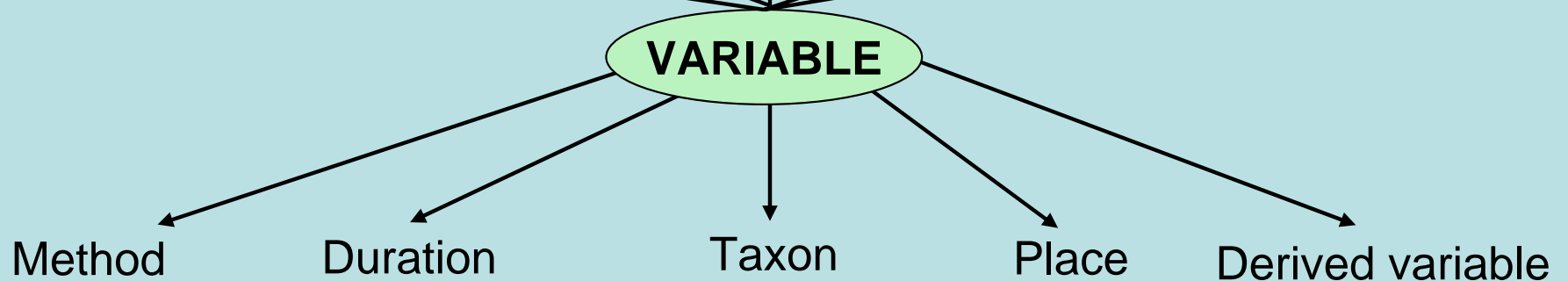
Classification of data



Classification of data

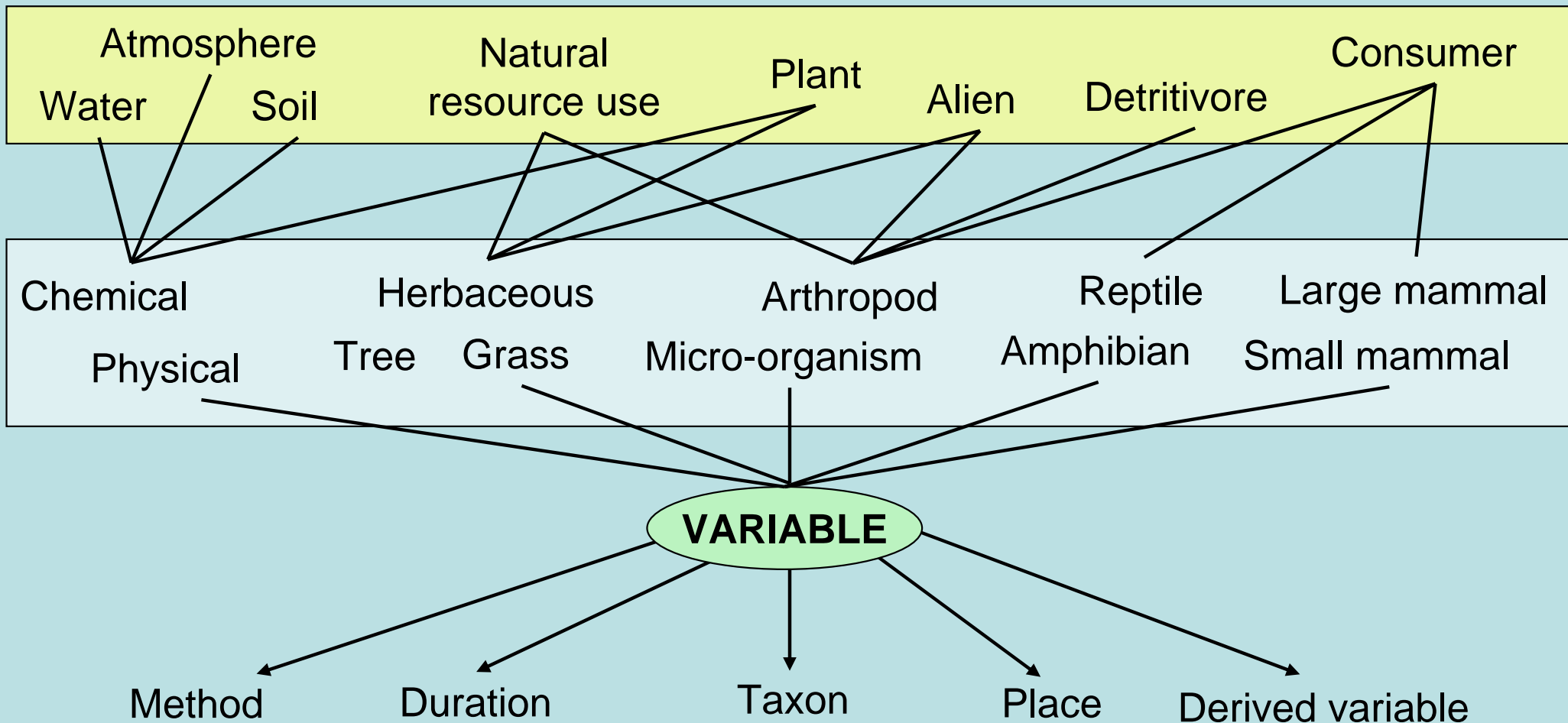
LEVEL I

Chemical	Herbaceous	Arthropod	Reptile	Large mammal
Physical	Tree	Micro-organism	Amphibian	Small mammal

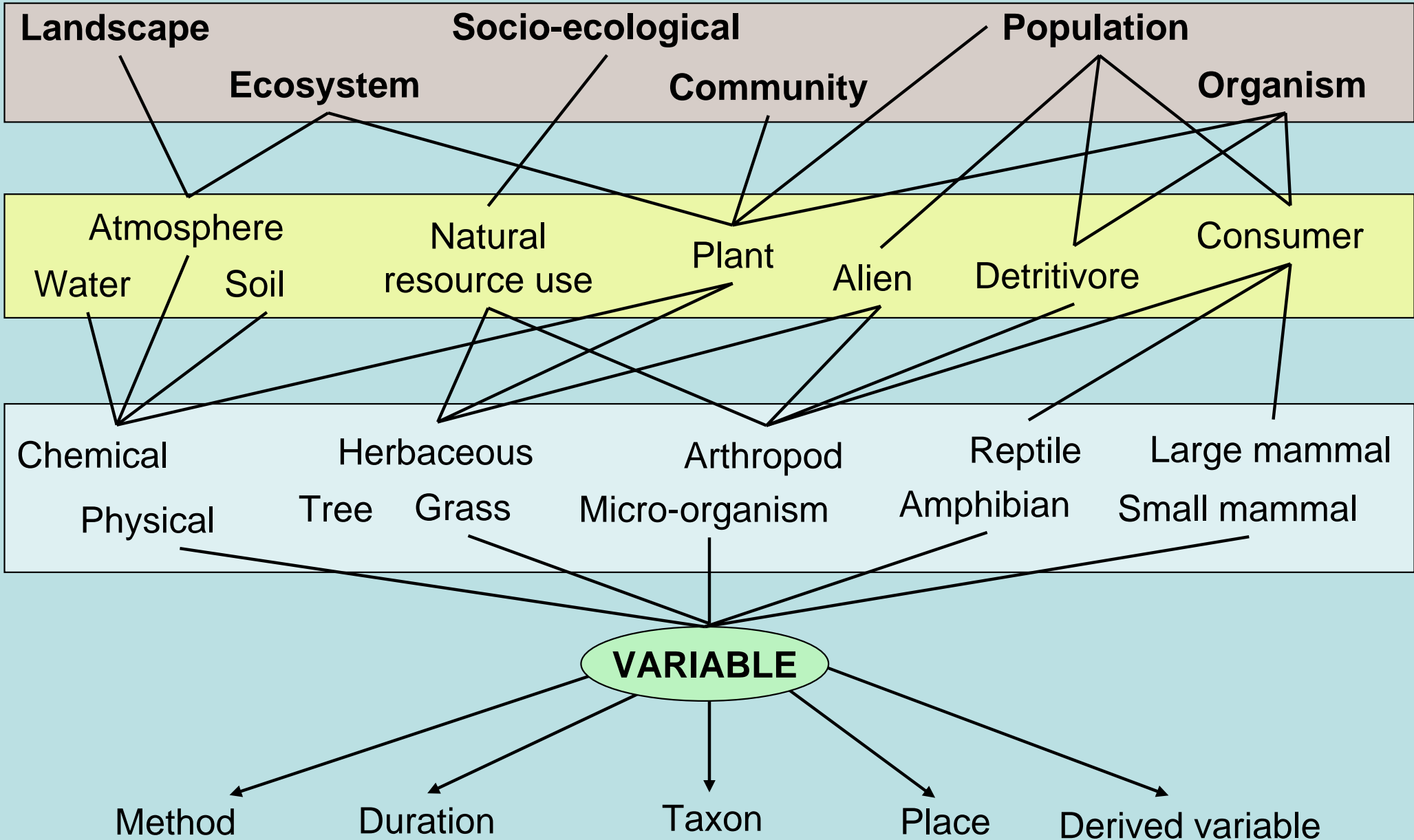


Classification of data

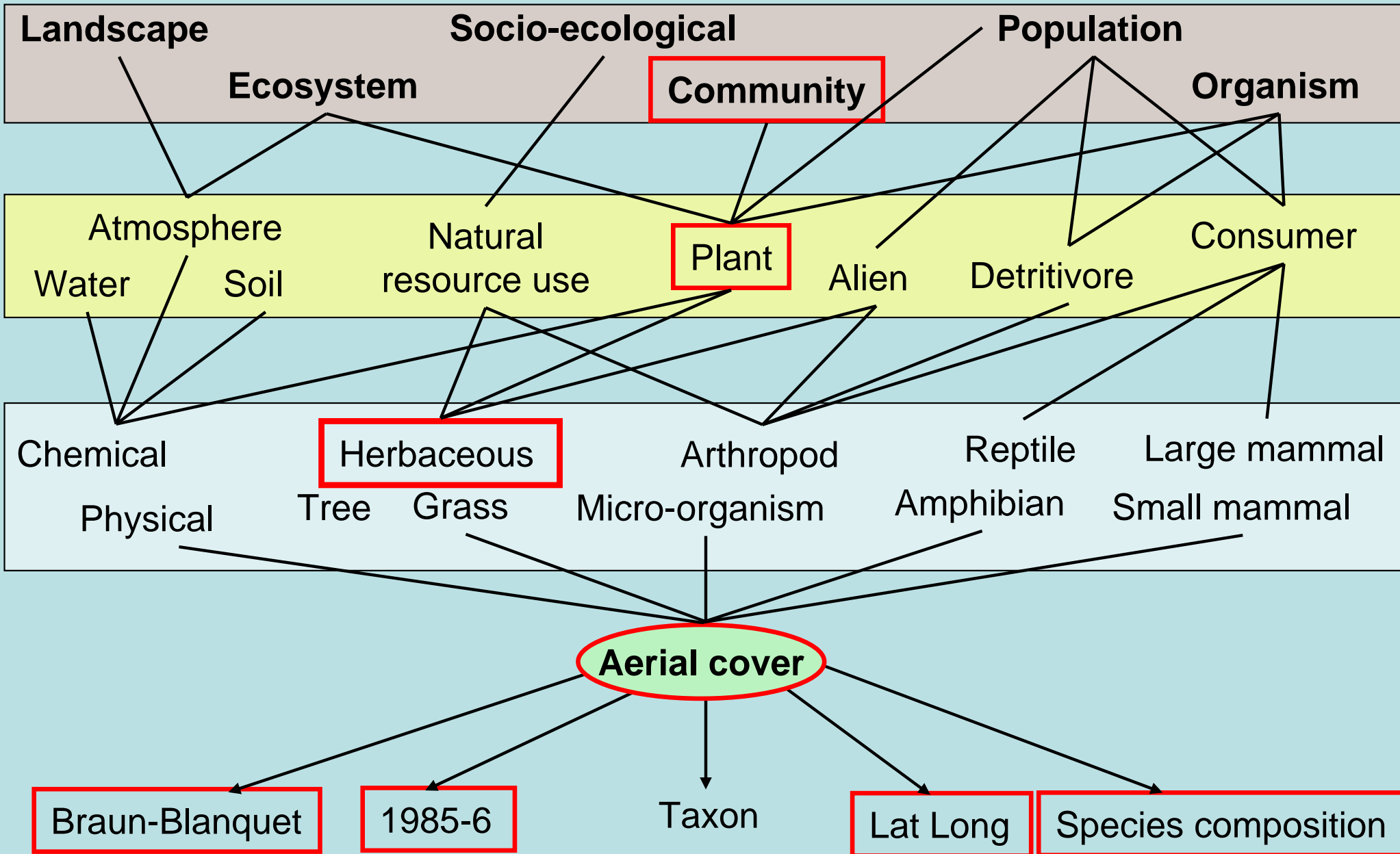
LEVEL II

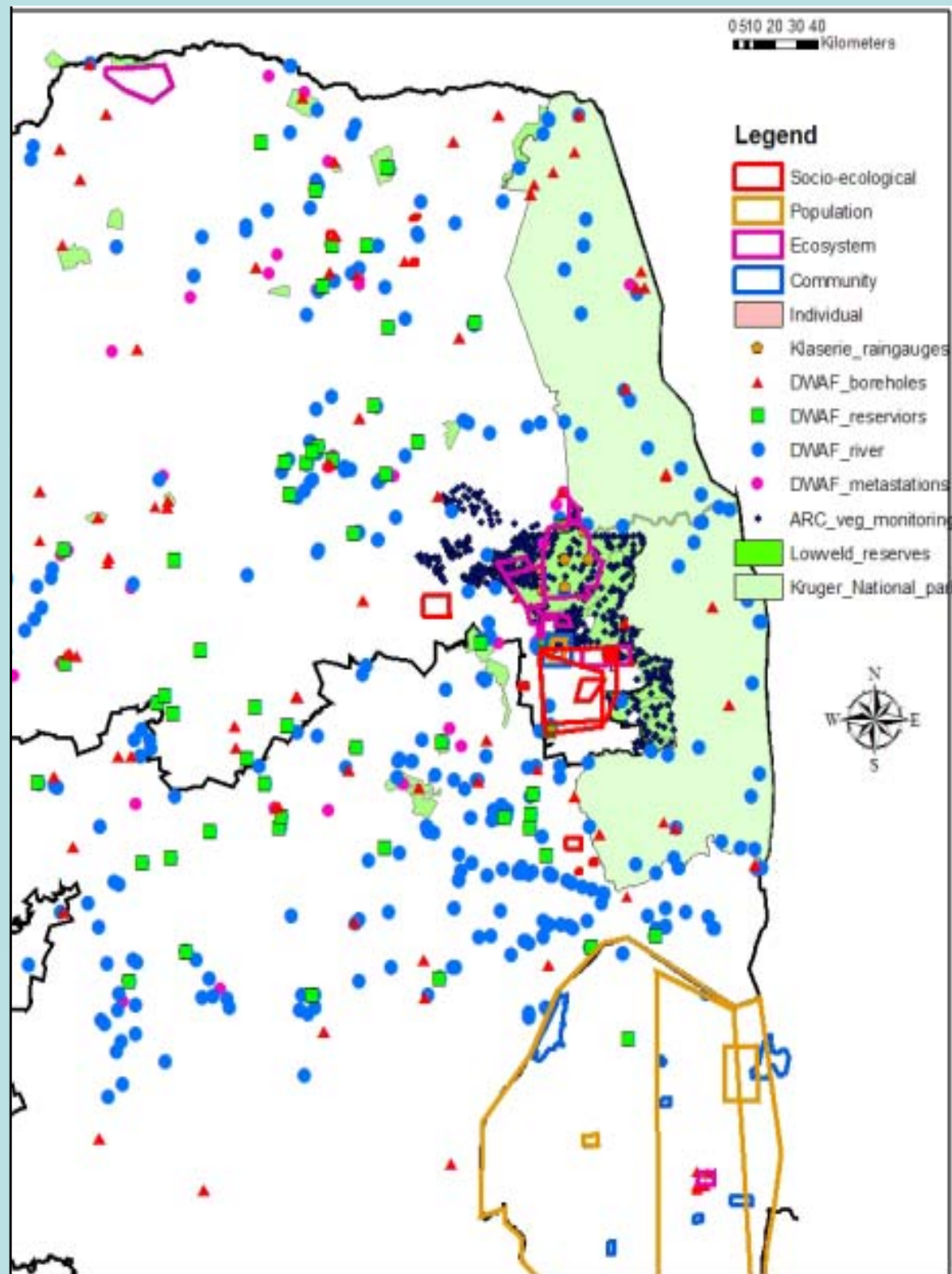


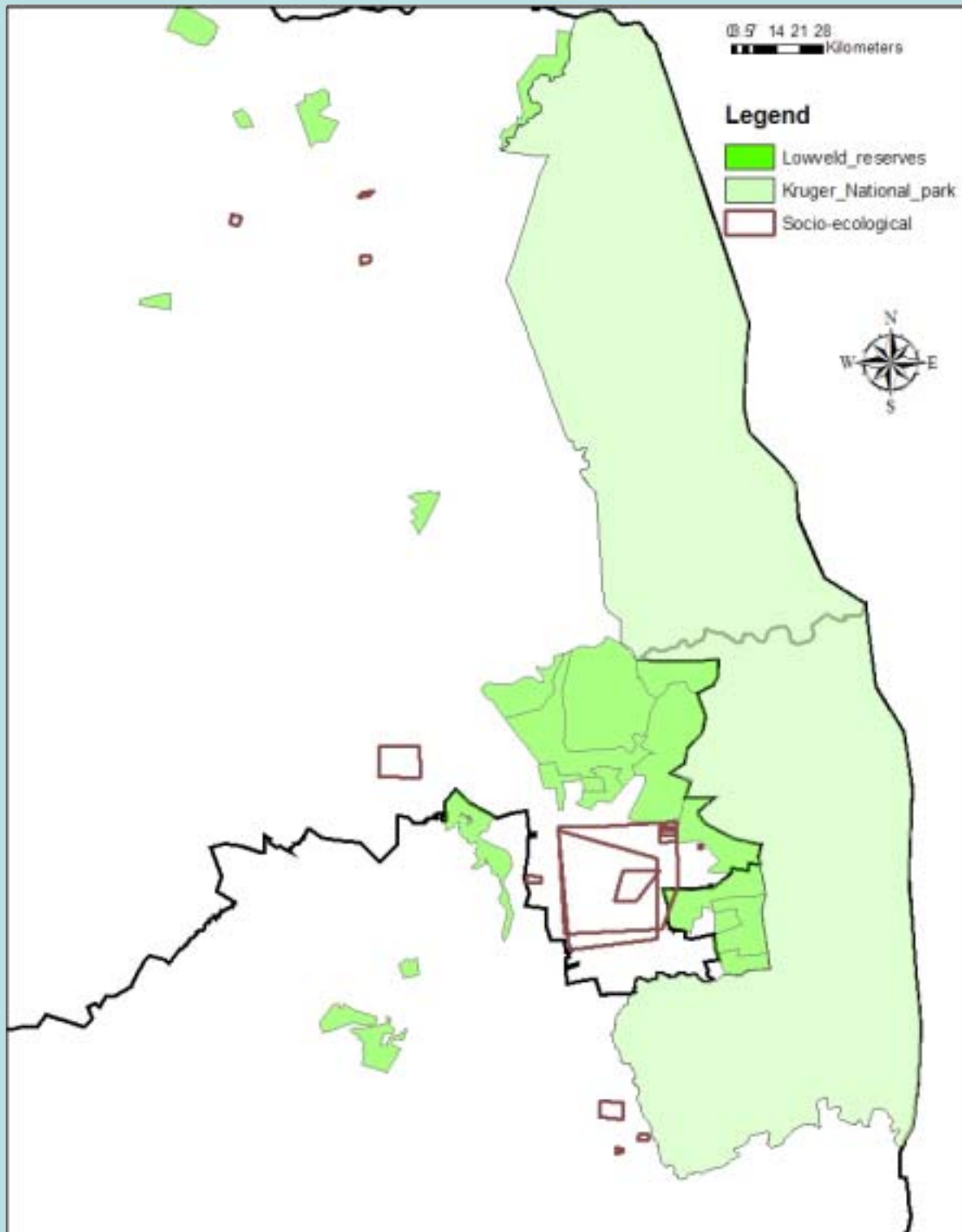
LEVEL III

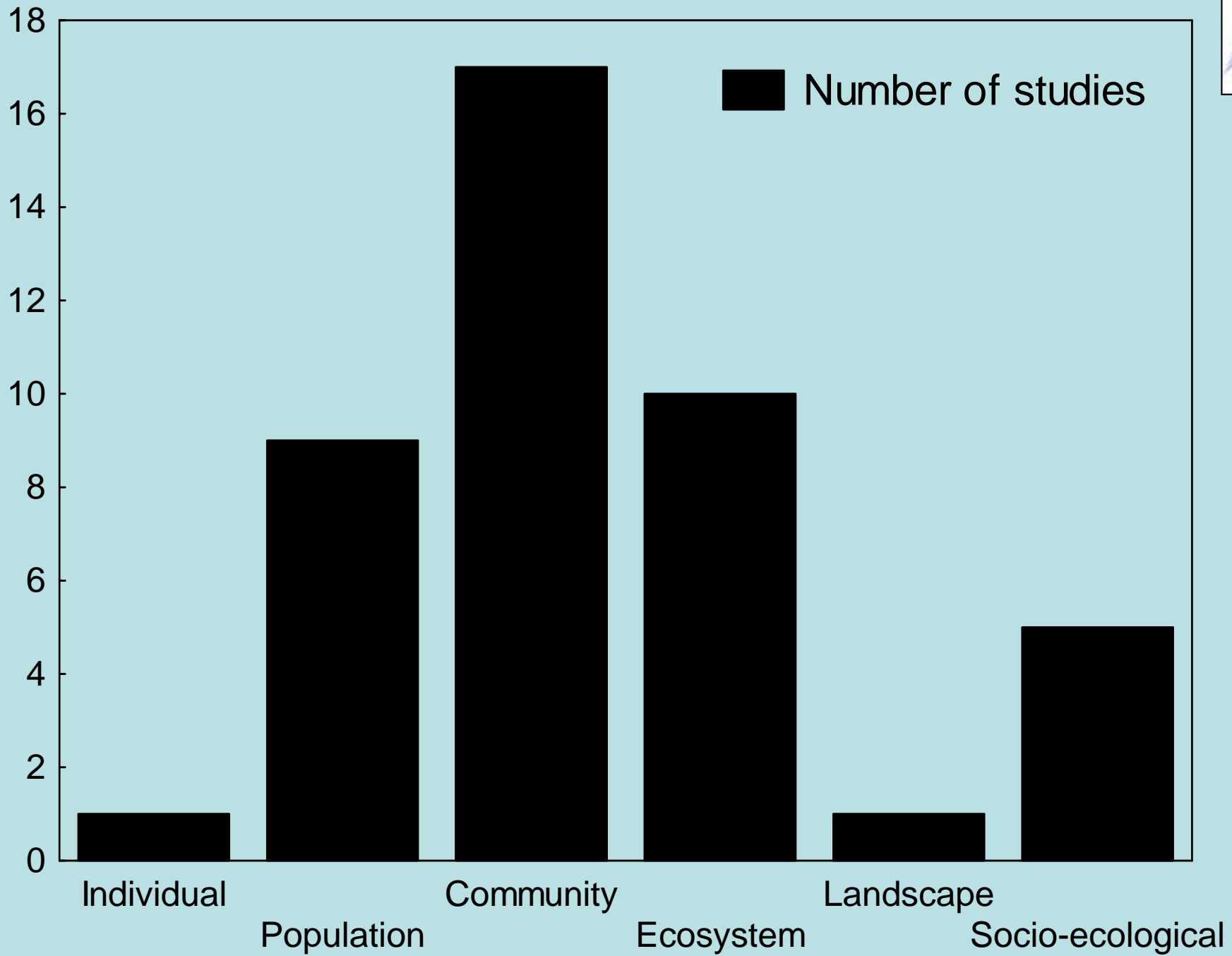


LEVEL III





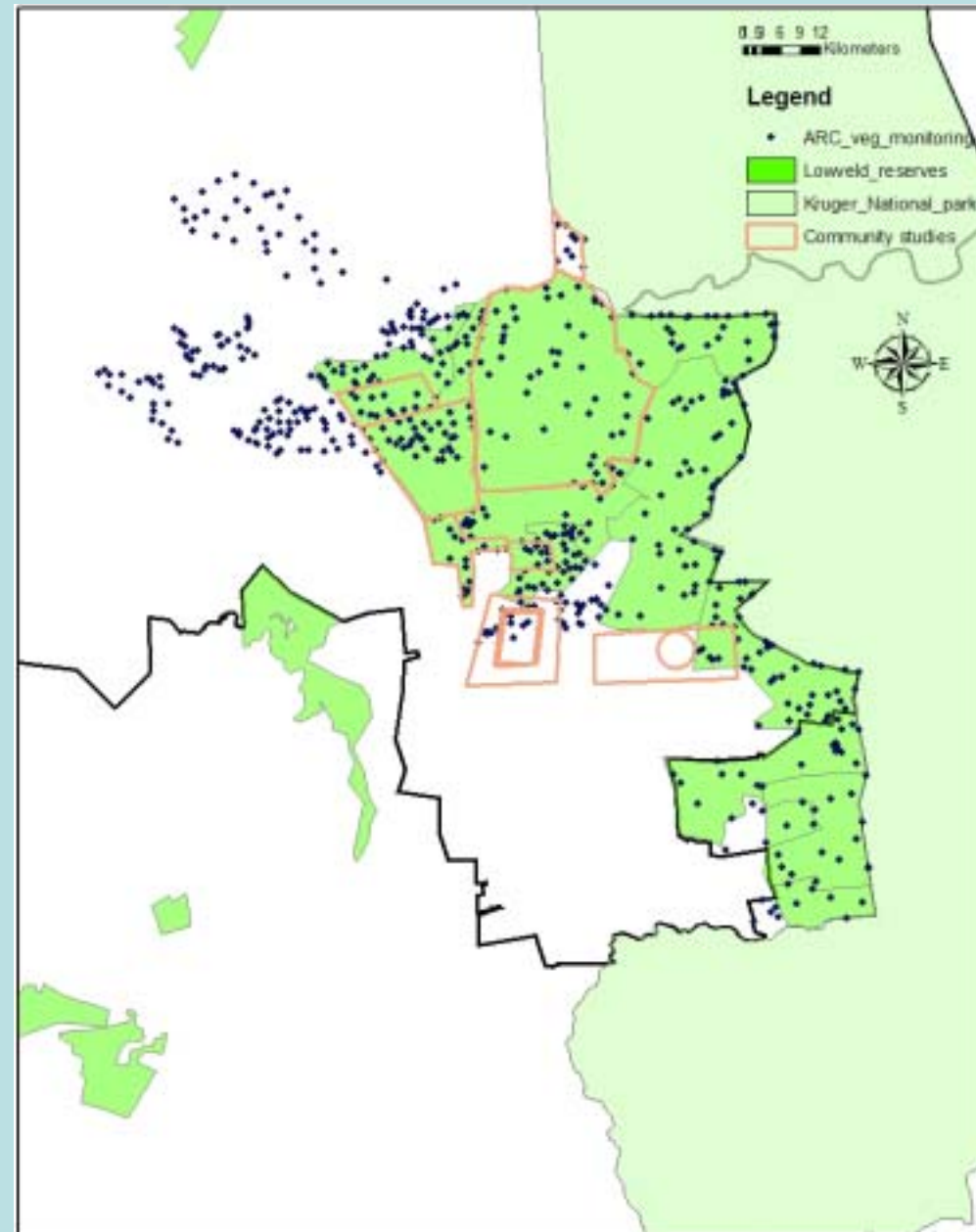




Metadata database – future



- Flexible, in-development
 - Criticisms & contributions welcome!
 - Data
 - Design - specific queries
 - Data manager, Nikki Stevens
(nikki@saeon.ac.za)
- On-line access
 - Interactive map
- Link with KNP database
- Acquire data



Other SAEON news



- Plans for Ndlovu Node
 - Accommodation
 - four permanent tents
 - Vehicle for hire
 - Laboratory
 - Input from research community
- NRF to give preference to SAEON registered projects



Classification of data

