



**Western Cape  
Government**  
Agriculture

Jody Nicole Wentzel  
Sub Programme Manager: Disaster Risk Management  
Sustainable Resource Management  
Email: jodyw@elsenburg.com  
Tel: +27 21 808 7805

## **WESTERN CAPE BI-ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL DISASTER RISK ASSESSMENT REPORT CONDUCTED IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2020**

### **1. PURPOSE**

To demonstrate the disaster interventions and the categorisation of drought areas based on the September/ October 2020 Disaster Risk Veld Assessments.

### **2. MOTIVATION**

Due to the Covid-19-regulations, the department of Agriculture was unable to conduct its bi-annual Disaster Risk Assessments in the Western Cape Province. The persistent drought has had a devastating impact on the veld conditions across the province. These assessments are therefore integral to the planning and implementation of all disaster interventions.

To mitigate the hampering restrictions of Cov-19 on our ability to conduct the assessments in its traditional way, appropriately qualified staff, based in the different regions, assessed the state of the drought and where possible, undertook fieldwork. Unfortunately, no satellite data could be incorporated. This assessment was done during September and October 2020. Concurrently, the Disaster Risk Management Office, in conjunction with the Provincial Disaster Management Centre, conducted monitoring and evaluation of beneficiaries receiving drought funding. The M&E was conducted in the Central Karoo, Garden Route and West Coast Districts.

The outcomes of the assessments, as indicated in the tables below, is due to the inputs from various stakeholders across the department.

These stakeholders include the Research and Technology Development Services Programme (RTD), the Disaster Risk Management Sub-programme (DRM), the Farmer Support and Development Programme (FSD) and LandCare.

### 3. ASSESSMENT OUTCOMES

#### Veld Categories

##### 1. Extremely Critical Dry

- The extremely critical dry areas are the plants that are black and some already turning white.
- This means that the veld is in the worst possible condition with little to no signs of life.
- The extremely critical dry areas, marked red, would require monthly support, as the conditions are highly unfavourable in terms of the veld conditions and water availability.

##### 2. Critical Dry

- The critical dry areas, in yellow, are areas that is still affected by the current drought conditions.
- These areas however have experienced very little plant growth.
- The area is not categorised as high risk due to the availability of water.
- The critical dry areas however still require support every alternate month.

##### 3. Dry

- Majority of the plants are living, but very dry.
- The plants don't break easily and there are still leaves present, although brown.
- Little to no flowers present are visible. Grasses are dry, but not yet black (e.g. Kraalbos is yellow).

##### 4. Dry with signs of recovery

- Majority of the plants in the area are dry, with most of them baring leaves.
- The area consists of plants that are still green with flowers and showing signs of regrowth.

##### 5. Good condition

- Areas listed in the "green" column are classified as good, meaning that the veld conditions have improved to an extent that the farmers can be removed from the drought support.

Should the veld conditions in any area in the Province deteriorate or improve over time, the department will reclassify the area and adjust the required support accordingly.

## Municipal Veld Categories

The tables below refer to the municipal areas in the Western Cape:

Municipal Area	Extremely critical	Critical	Good	Additional comments
	(monthly support)	(support every second month)	Remove from drought support	
Matzikamma (North-East part)	X			See narrative below
Cederberg			X	Good recovery
Bergriver			X	Good recovery

The northeast part of Matzikamma district is in a critical to extremely critical dry condition.

- The area received below average winter rainfall and plants are struggling to survive. There has been no regrowth or flowers on the perennial plants and the volunteer crops (opslag) are absent. This is the result of prolonged dry conditions in the area.
- This area will require monthly drought assistance.
- As part of the monitoring and evaluation exercise in the Matzikamma region, the DRM/PDMC team interacted with a number of the local farmers.
- The farmers confirmed the lack of rainfall in the area and the subsequent lack of plant growth.
- The impact of the drought has negatively affected the livelihoods of all farmers within this region.
- Most farmers have had to reduce their stock numbers and many of them were forced to retrench staff.
- The Cederberg and Bergriver districts are in a fair to good condition. There has been regrowth on the perennial plants, it was flowering and many volunteer crops (opslag) was present. These areas will no longer need drought assistance.

Municipal Area	Extremely critical	Critical	Good	Additional comments
	(monthly support)	(support every second month)	Remove from drought support	
Saldanha			X	See narrative below
Swartland			X	See narrative below

- The Saldanha and Swartland districts are currently in a fair to good condition.
- These areas do not require drought-relief assistance.

Municipal Area	Extremely critical	Critical	Good	Additional comments
	(monthly support)	(support every second month)	Remove from drought support	
Drakenstein			X	Good recovery
Witzenberg (Ceres Karoo)	X			See narrative below
Stellenbosch			X	Good recovery
Breede Valley			X	Good recovery
Langeberg			X	Good recovery

- The Witzenberg area is in a critical to extremely critical dry condition.
- This is as a result of severe dry conditions and lack of good rainfall.
- The plants in this area are absent and the veld has not recovered yet.
- This area will need monthly drought assistance.

Municipal Area	Extremely critical	Critical	Good	Additional comments
	(monthly support)	(support every second month)	Remove from drought support	
Beaufort West	X			See narrative below
Laingsburg	X			See narrative below
Prince Albert	X			See narrative below

- The Central Karoo district is in a critical to extremely critical dry condition, except for the Murraysburg area, which has shown good veld recovery and will no longer receive drought support.
- The other areas of the Central Karoo have not received any good rains in a long while, resulting in very little to no recovery of the veld.
- This area will need monthly drought-relief assistance.
- As part of the monitoring and evaluation exercise in the Central Karoo region, the DRM/PDMC team interacted with a number of local farmers.

- The farmers confirmed the lack of rainfall in the area and the subsequent lack of plant growth.
- The impact of the drought has negatively affected the livelihoods of all farmers within this region.
- Most farmers have had to reduce their stock numbers and many of them were forced to retrench staff.

Municipal Area	Extremely critical	Critical	Good	Additional comments
	(monthly support)	(support every second month)	Remove from drought support	
Kannaland		X		See narrative below
Oudtshoorn		X		See narrative below
George			X	Good recovery
Bitou			X	Good recovery
Knysna			X	Good recovery
Mossel Bay			X	Good recovery
Hessequa			X	Good recovery

- The Little Karoo is currently in a critical dry condition.
- The area has shown slight veld recovery as plants are still dry, with leaves.
- Regrowth of the plants in the area has been observed, with few flowers and some volunteer crops present.
- The presence of volunteer crops (opslag) is a sign of recent rainfall in the area.
- The area will need drought-relief assistance every second month.
- As part of the monitoring and evaluation exercise in parts of the Garden Route region, the DRM/PDMC team interacted with a number of the local farmers.
- The farmers confirmed the lack of rainfall in the area and the subsequent lack of plant growth.
- The impact of the drought has negatively affected the livelihoods of all farmers within this region.

- Most farmers have had to reduce their stock numbers and many of them were forced to retrench staff.
- Riversdale (north of Langeberg) area has shown a slight veld recovery. This area of Riversdale will need drought-relief assistance every second month.
- The Hessequa area is generally in a fair to good condition. There was regrowth on the perennial plants, it was flowering and many volunteer crops (opslag) were present.

Municipal Area	Extremely critical	Critical	Good	Additional comments
	(monthly support)	(support every second month)	Remove from drought support	
Swellendam			X	Good recovery
Cape Agulhas			X	Good recovery
Overstrand			X	Good recovery
Theewaterskloof			X	Good recovery

- The western parts of the Theewaterskloof and Overberg districts are in a fair to good condition.
- Overberg district has shown veld recovery and will no longer need drought-relief support.
- In the areas listed below, many plants are dead after years of severe drought and although it is not currently in a critical dry condition and in need of drought-relief assistance, farmers should be cautioned not to increase their livestock numbers drastically, but rather allow the plants to recover before grazing.
  - Overberg, Eden, Swartland, Bergervier, Cederberg, Coastal regions of Matzikamma and the south-western region of Witzenberg, Montagu, Worcester, Touwsrivier, Barrydale, Kannaland, Zoar, Murraysburg.

Figure 1: Identifies the veld conditions in the areas across the province and the resultant level of drought support.

- Areas marked in green do not need drought support.
- Areas marked Orange will need drought support every second month.
- Areas that are marked Red will receive drought support every month.

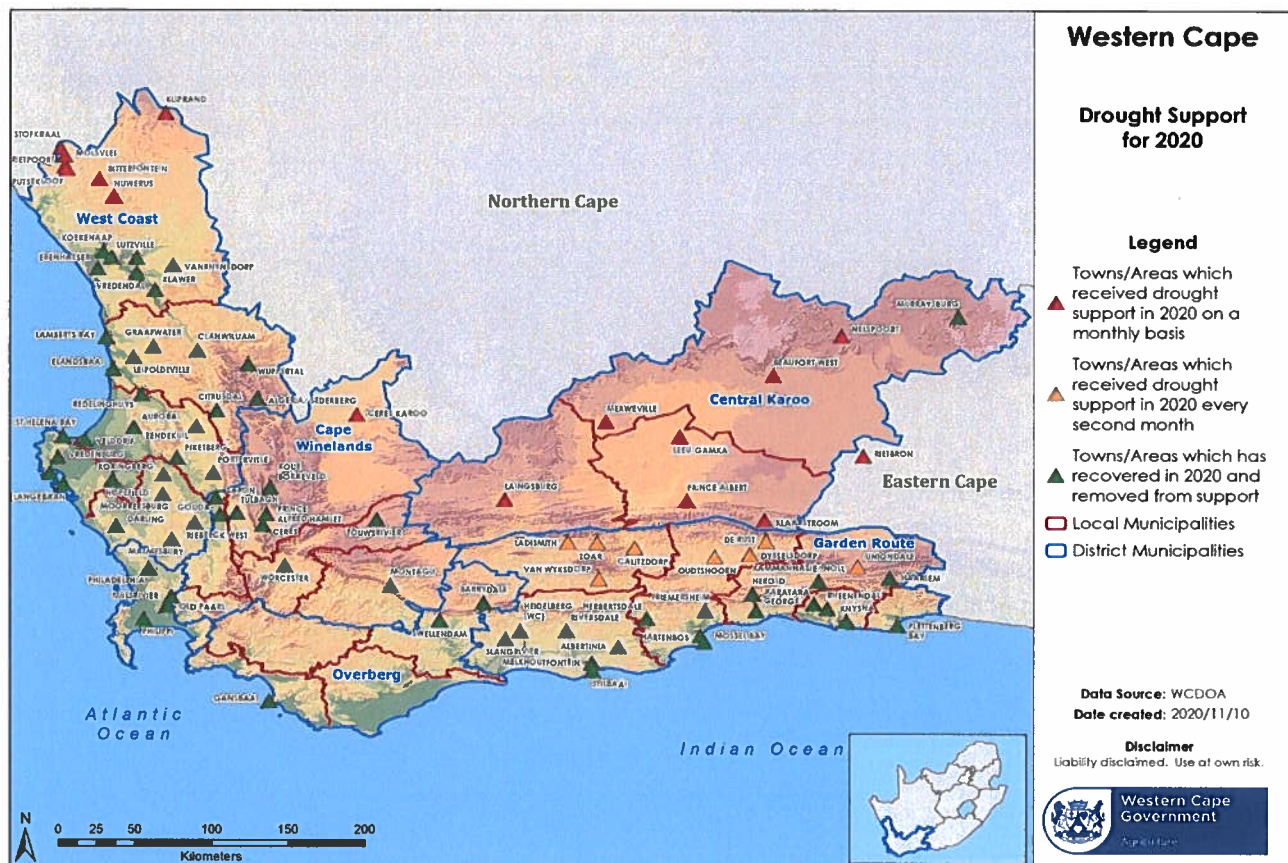
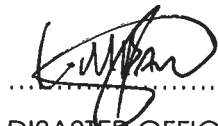


Fig 1. Western Cape Department of Agriculture - Drought Support Map 2021

COMPILED BY:



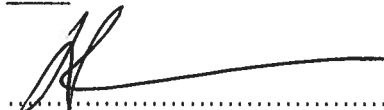
DISASTER OFFICER: L MBAM

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT: SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

21/01/2021

DATE:

AND



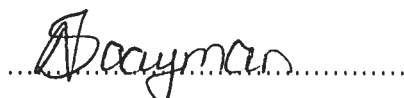
DISASTER MANAGER: L MARTHINUSSEN

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT: SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

22/01/2021

DATE:

TECHNICAL INPUTS PROVIDED BY:



MS NELMARIÉ SAAYMAN (Pr. Sci. Nat.)

PROFESSIONAL SCIENTIST (RANGELANDS): RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

22/01/2021

DATE:

I HAVE REVIEWED THE REPORT:



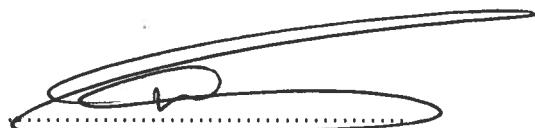
MS JN WENTZEL (Pr. Techni Eng)

ACTING DIRECTOR: SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

22/01/2021

DATE:

THE FINDINGS IN THIS REPORT IS SUPPORTED/~~NOT SUPPORTED~~:



MR DW JACOBS

DDG: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES

22/01/2021

DATE:



Western Cape  
Government

Agriculture

Ashia Petersen  
Sustainable Resource Management  
Email: ashiaa@elsenburg.com  
tel: +27 21 808 5010 fax: +27 21 808 5342

Reference: 3/2/1/2/11

Ms J Wentzel  
Western Cape Department of Agriculture  
Private Bag X1  
**ELSENBURG**  
7607

**APPOINTMENT IN ACTING CAPACITY AS ACTING DIRECTOR: SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

In terms of Section 32 of the Public Service Act (No. 103 of 1994), I hereby appoint you to act as Acting Director: Sustainable Resource Management in addition to your current responsibilities, for the period from **18 January 2021** until **(and including) 22 January 2021** and assign to you all the powers, responsibilities and delegations associated with this post.

Your willingness to act in this position is greatly appreciated.

**DR M SEBOPETSA**

**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: AGRICULTURE**

**DATE: 14-01-2021**

**ACCEPTANCE**

I, J Wentzel (**Persal No: 54938708**), accept the appointment to act as Acting Director: Sustainable Resource Management, for the period as stated above. I am aware of the responsibilities, competencies and delegations pertaining to this position.

**MS J WENTZEL**

**DATE: 14/01/2021**