

Looking at the Water Management System site inventory through Google Earth. September 2007
 M J Silberbauer (SilberbauerM@dwaf.gov.za) Business Support Workshop for Water Quality

Resource Quality Services water quality data exploration tool

WMS

Resource Quality Services, WMS, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.

This browser tool provides access to more than 60000 sites, some monitored as early as the 1950s. Links are available to pre-packaged PDF graphs and data files listing the more common water quality constituents. Files for displaying data in Google Earth help to orient the user and provide a general overview of the sampling network.

Follow one of the links below and then choose whether to view data in tabular form or with Google Earth as a front end (for detailed help with Google Earth, download the [User Guide](#)).

Browse water quality sites by:

primary drainage region | water management area

Please click on a drainage region name to view the sites in Google Earth. If it is not installed on your computer, depending on the configuration of Google Earth on your computer, you may need to save the KMZ file.

Select optional data formats (these are not recommended if you have a slow data line or limited computer memory):

- Icon markers marks sites according to type.
- Maucha markers places Maucha icon marker symbols at each site.
- Boreholes adds thousands of borehole sites.

(Note: you will need to download and install the free [Google Earth](#) application).

Google Earth, no boreholes	Google Earth with boreholes	Tabular view
Icon markers	Maucha markers	No boreholes
A: Limpopo	(Maucha)	A: Limpopo
B: Olifants (E)	(Maucha)	B: Olifants (E)
C: Vaal	(Maucha)	C: Vaal
D: Orange	(Maucha)	D: Orange
E: Olifants (W) et al	(Maucha)	E: Olifants (W) et al
F: Buffels et al	(Maucha)	F: Buffels et al
G: Great Berg et al	(Maucha)	G: Great Berg et al

G_reg_WMS_nobor.kml - SciTE

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File Edit Search View Tools Options Language Buffers Help
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7611 </b><br>
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7613 Samples: 445<br>
7614 1978-04-25 to 2006-11-15<br>
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7642 <Snippet maxLines="1">G4R004Q01 Klein River Vlei On Klein Riv At Rock
7643 - <description><![CDATA[<b>WMS G40_102012

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line 7626, column 12 (INS) (CR+LF) - 85 chars selected

Western Cape

Image NASA
 © 2007 TerraMetrics
 Image © 2007 DigitalGlobe
 Streaming 100% Eye alt 387.84 km

115 km

Pointer 33°32'20.60" S 20°08'08.65" E elev 767 m

View: Core

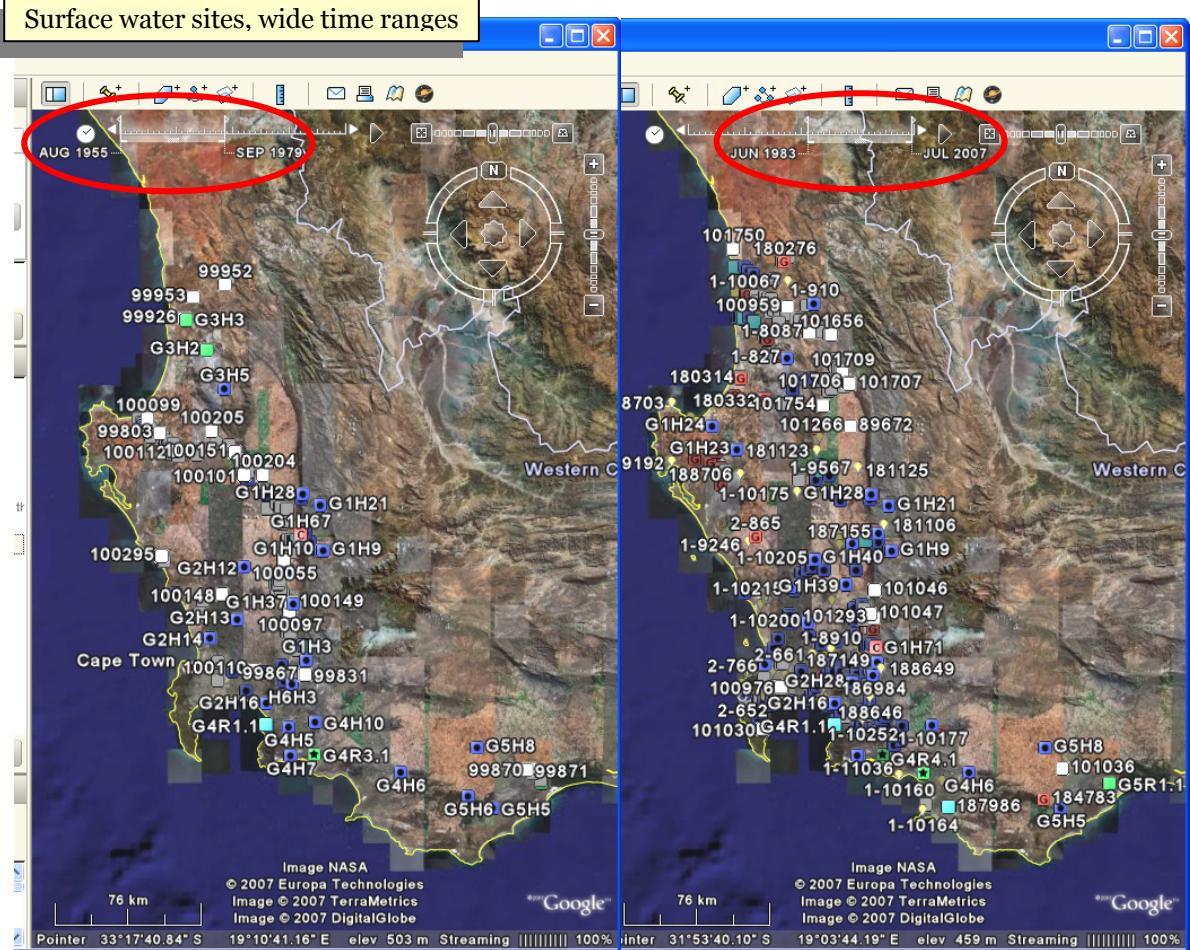
Primary Database

Terrain

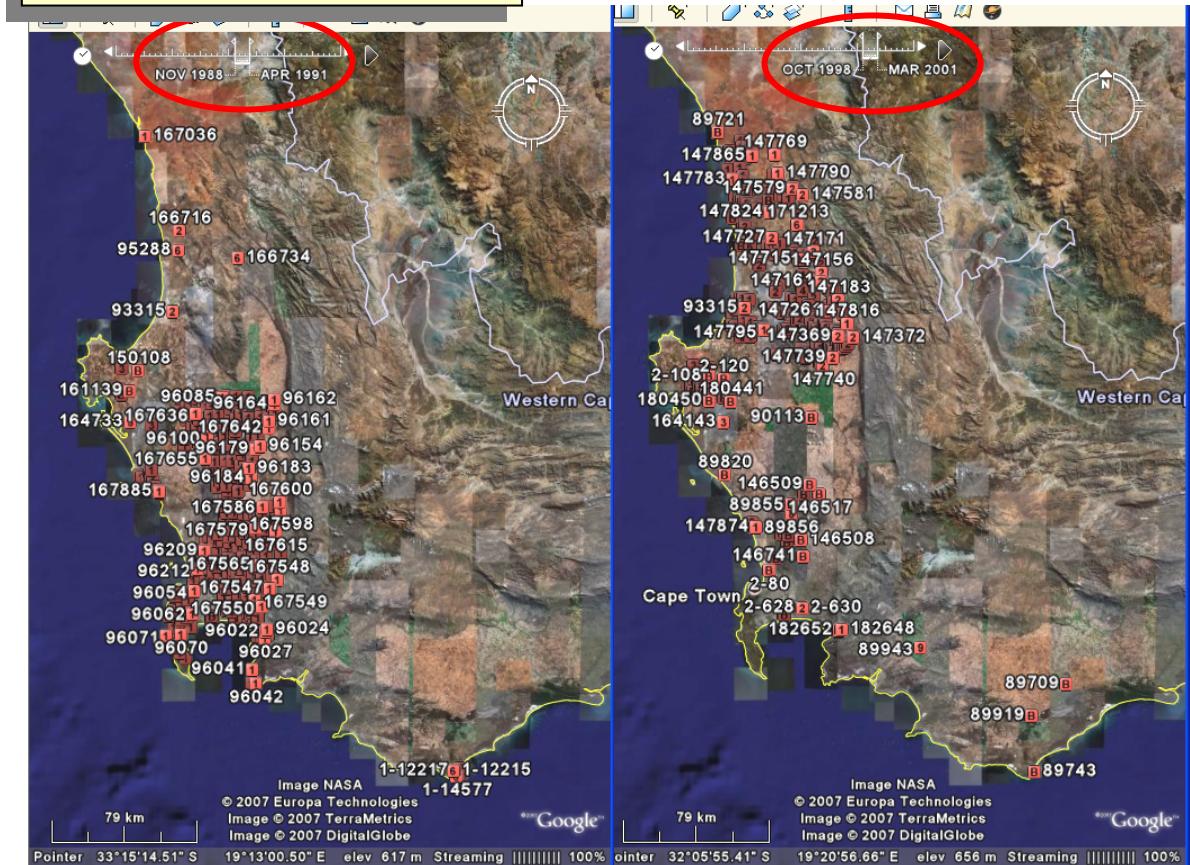
Geographic Web

Featured Content

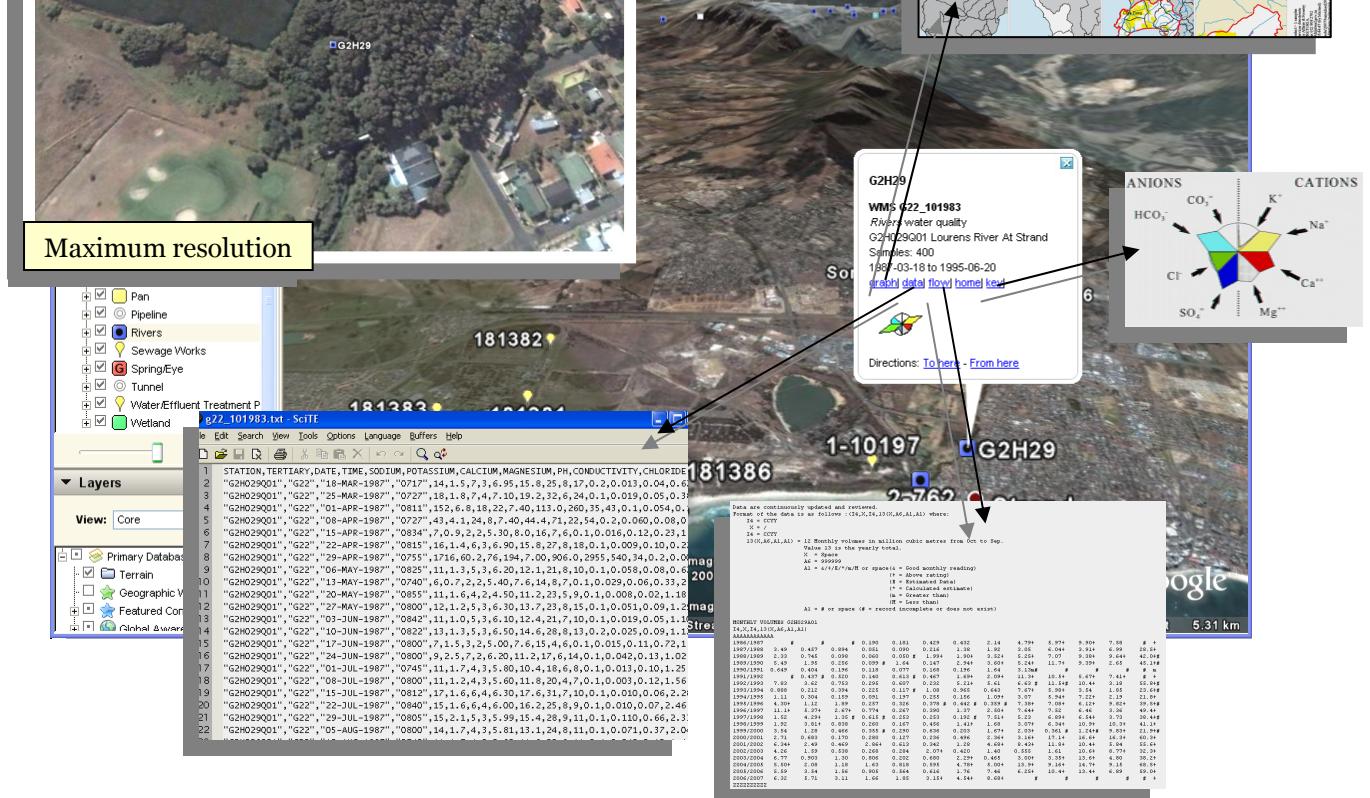
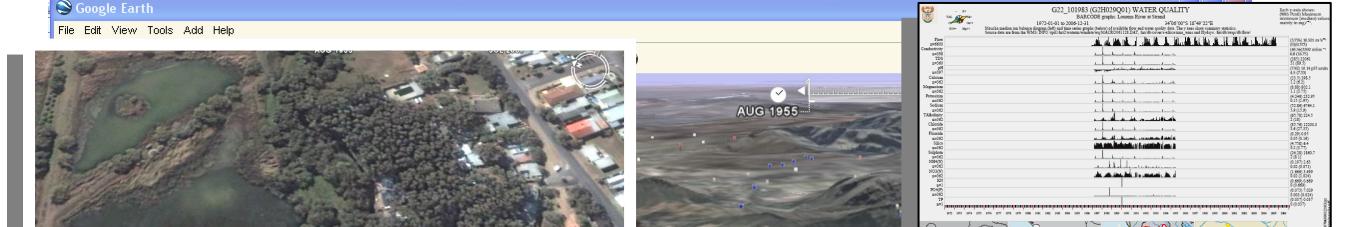
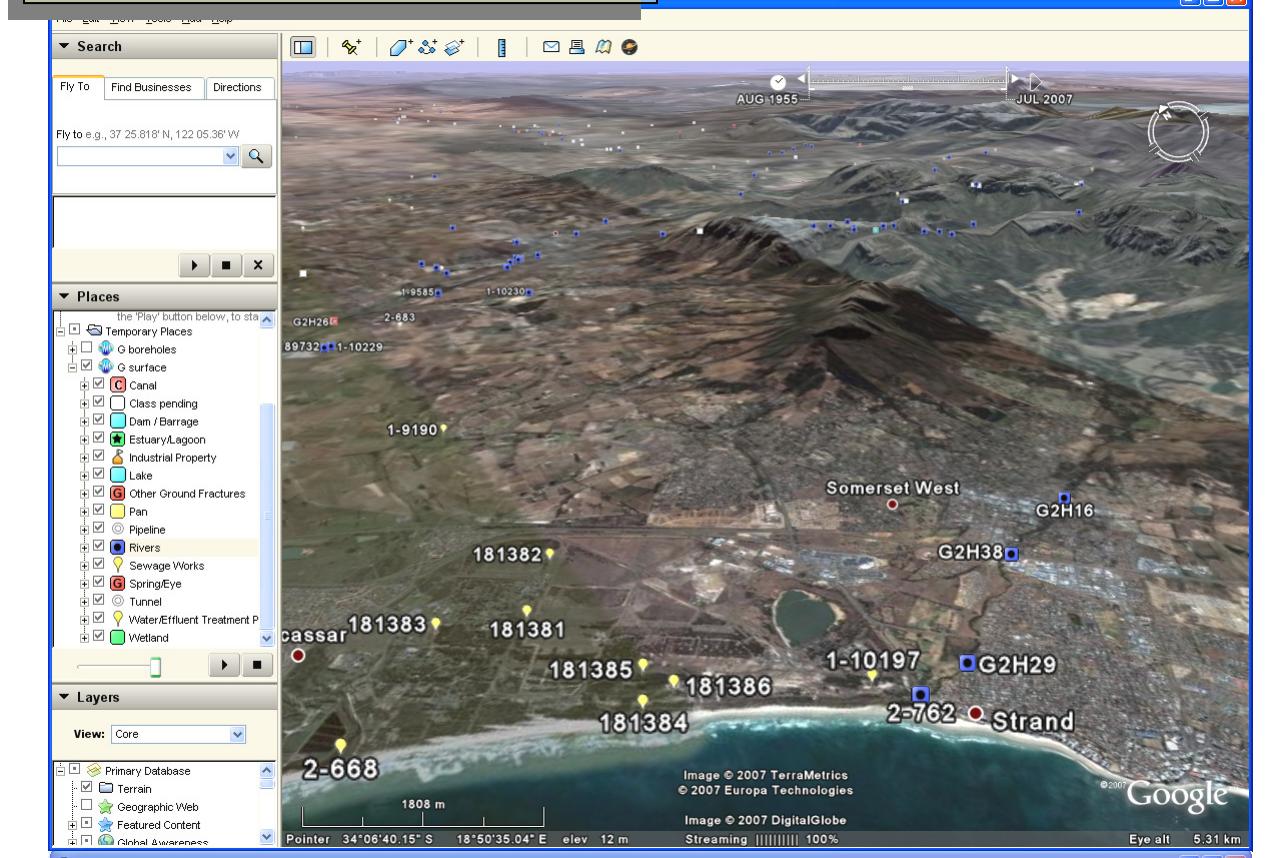
Surface water sites, wide time ranges



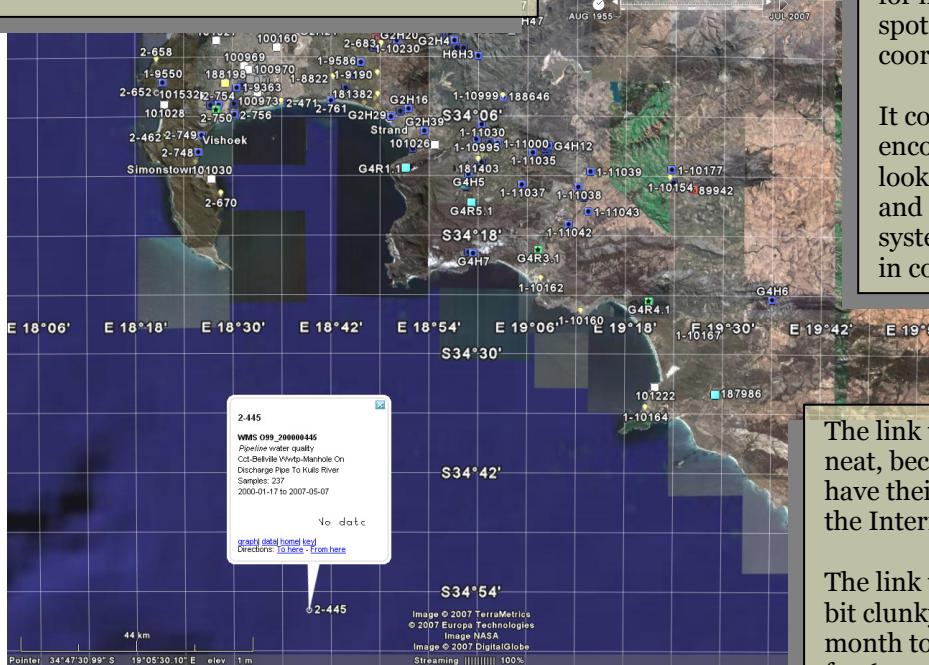
Groundwater sites, narrow time ranges



Click on a site and an information balloon pops up



Manhole cover drifting in Agulhas current...



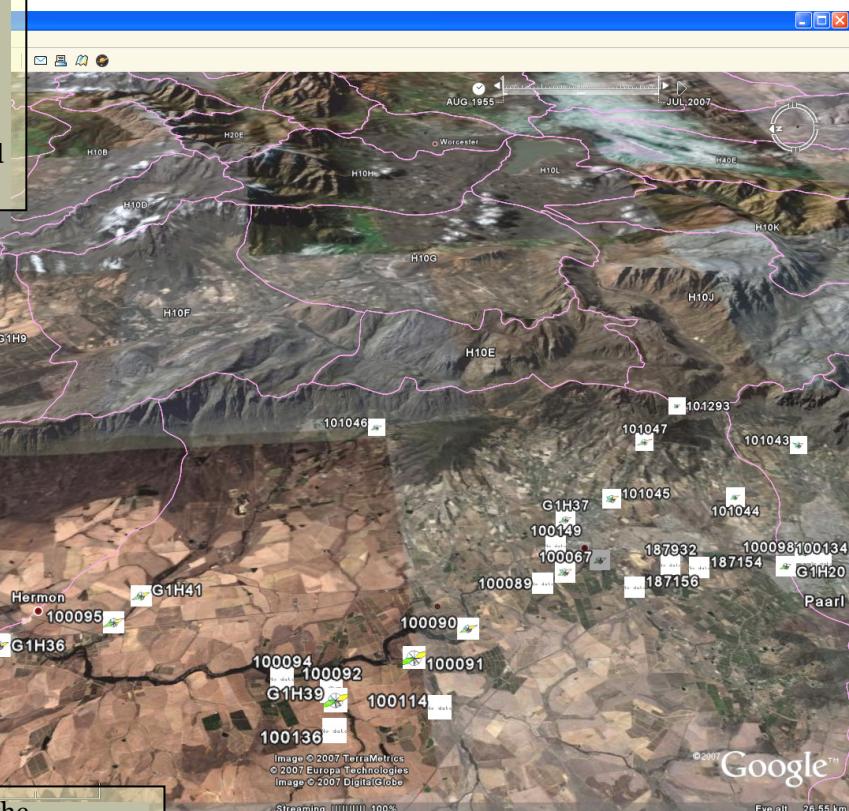
The interface has the potential for helping regional officers to spot errors and fix site coordinates.

It could provide encouragement to users to look around their catchments and put missing data on the system so that they can see it in context.

The link to flow data is quite neat, because the hydrologists have their data accessible on the Internet.

The link to water quality is a bit clunky, and it takes about a month to download the data for 60 000 sites and convert it into graphs and data tables.

Water quality displayed on the landscape allows the user to make the connections more quickly... Maucha diagrams showing salinity ratios are already there. We could work out indices for other variables and plot them with customised icons.



Friendly people are making the conversion process to KML files less painful: a few free Excel to KML converters are out there on the net. GIS packages include exporters for point and polygon data. When ESRI catches up, we will be able to serve up our standard coverages in ArcGIS Explorer.

KML isn't all that hard to generate, so many programmers will be able to add it as an output option.

