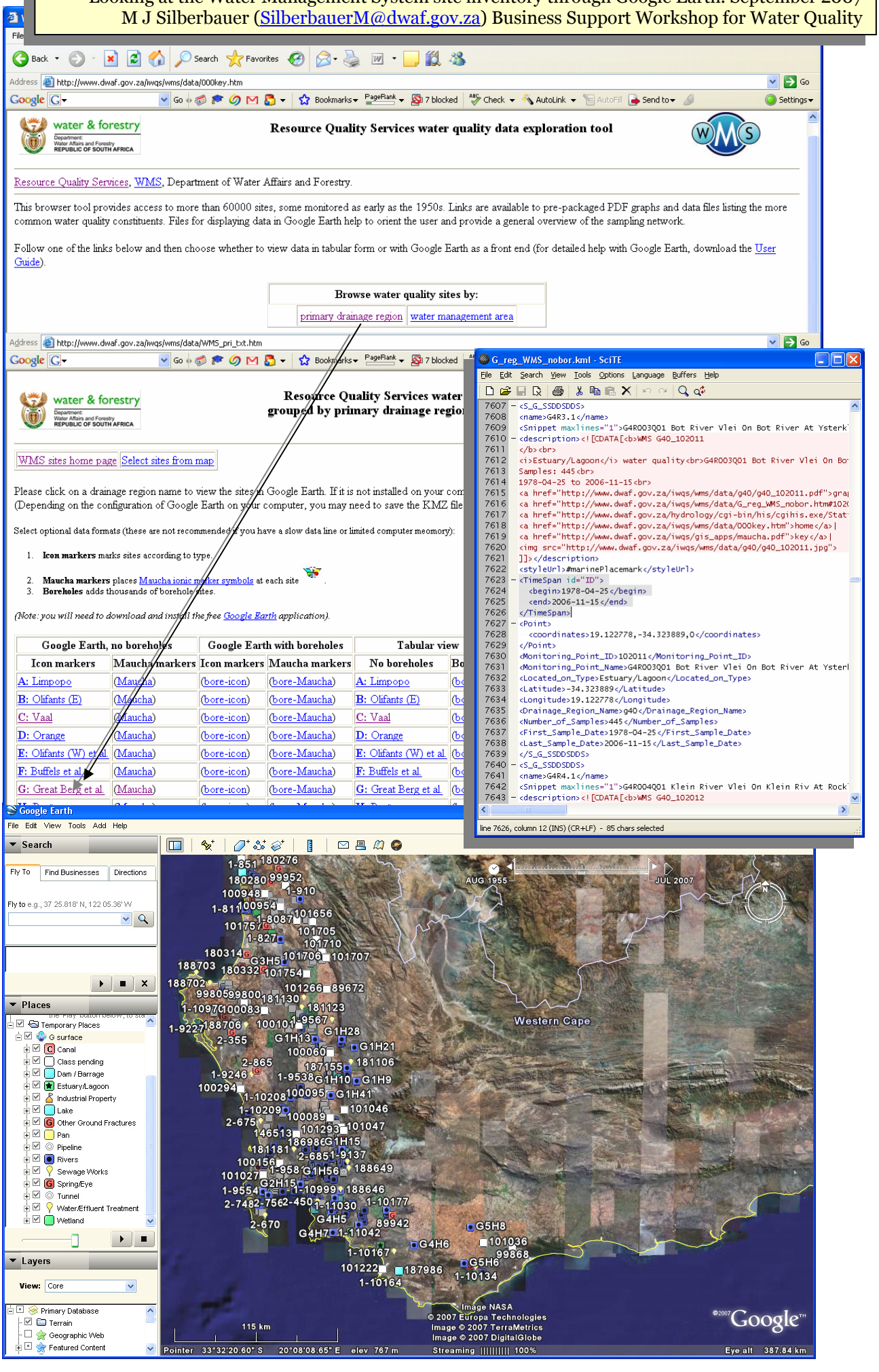
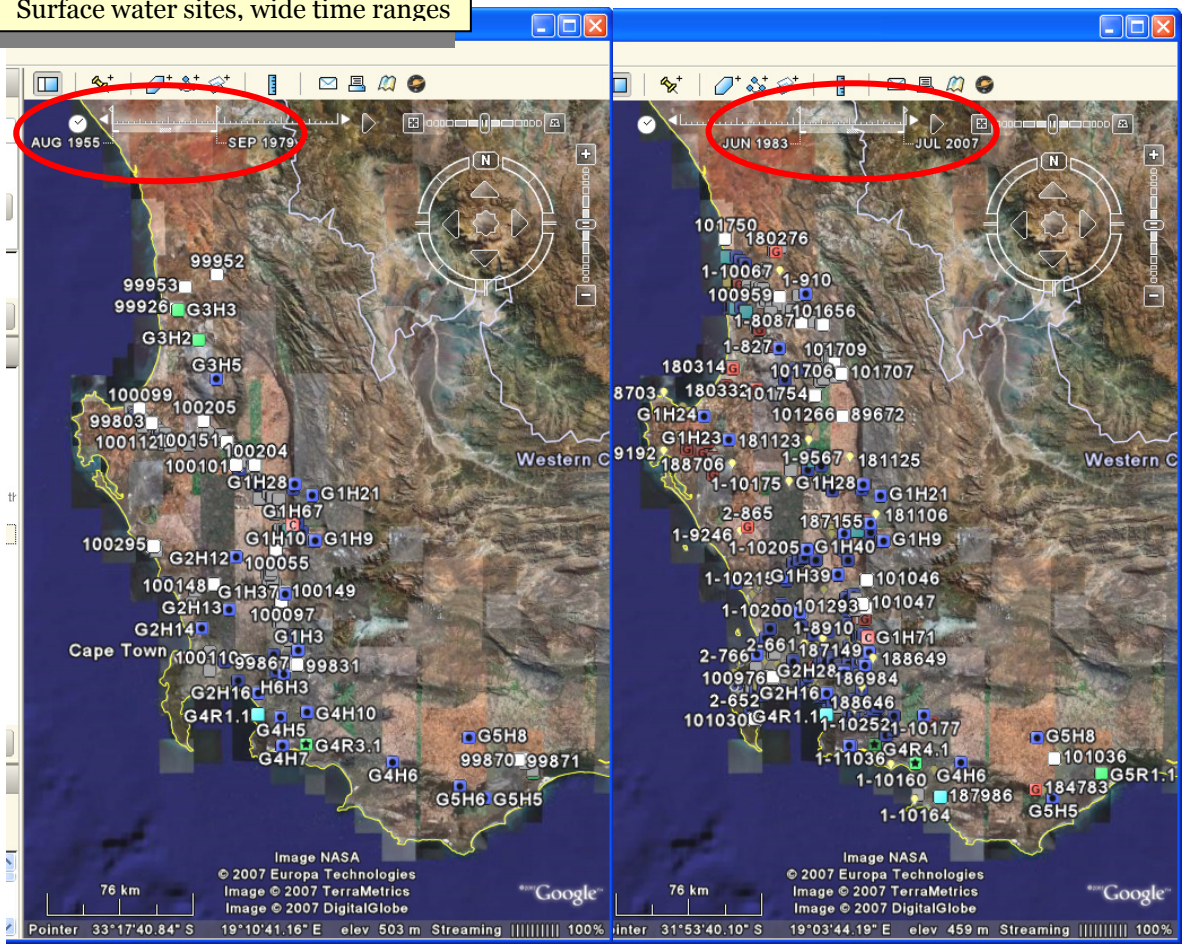
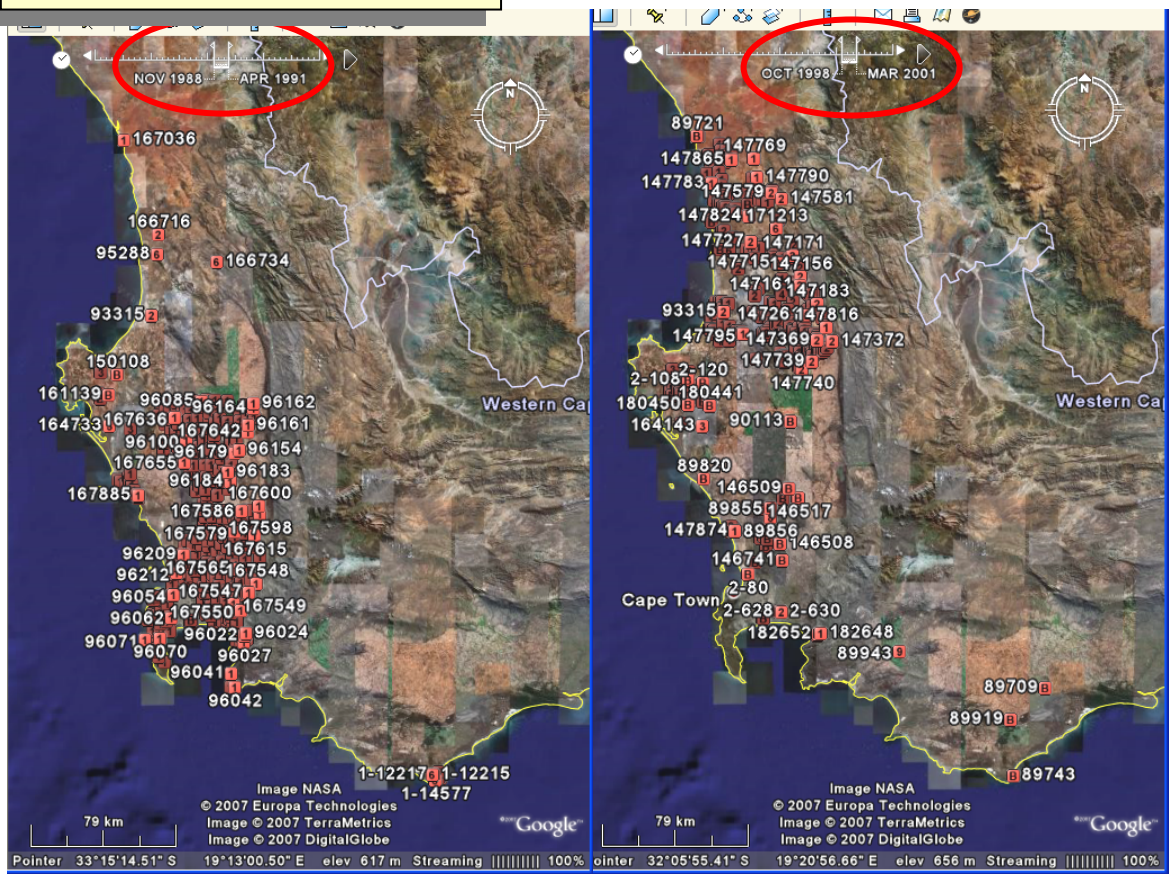
Looking at the Water Management System site inventory through Google Earth. September 2007
M J Silberbauer (SilberbauerM@dwaf.gov.za) Business Support Workshop for Water Quality



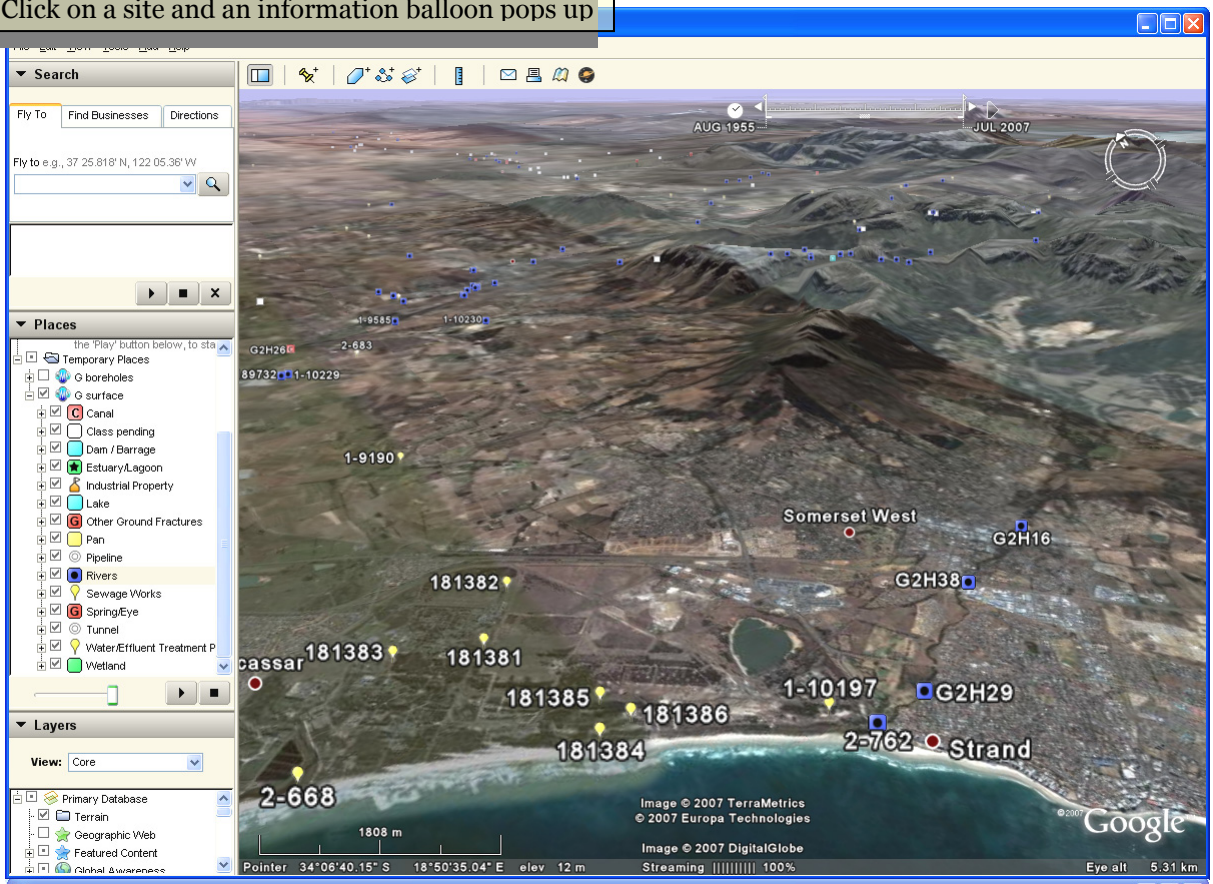
Surface water sites, wide time ranges

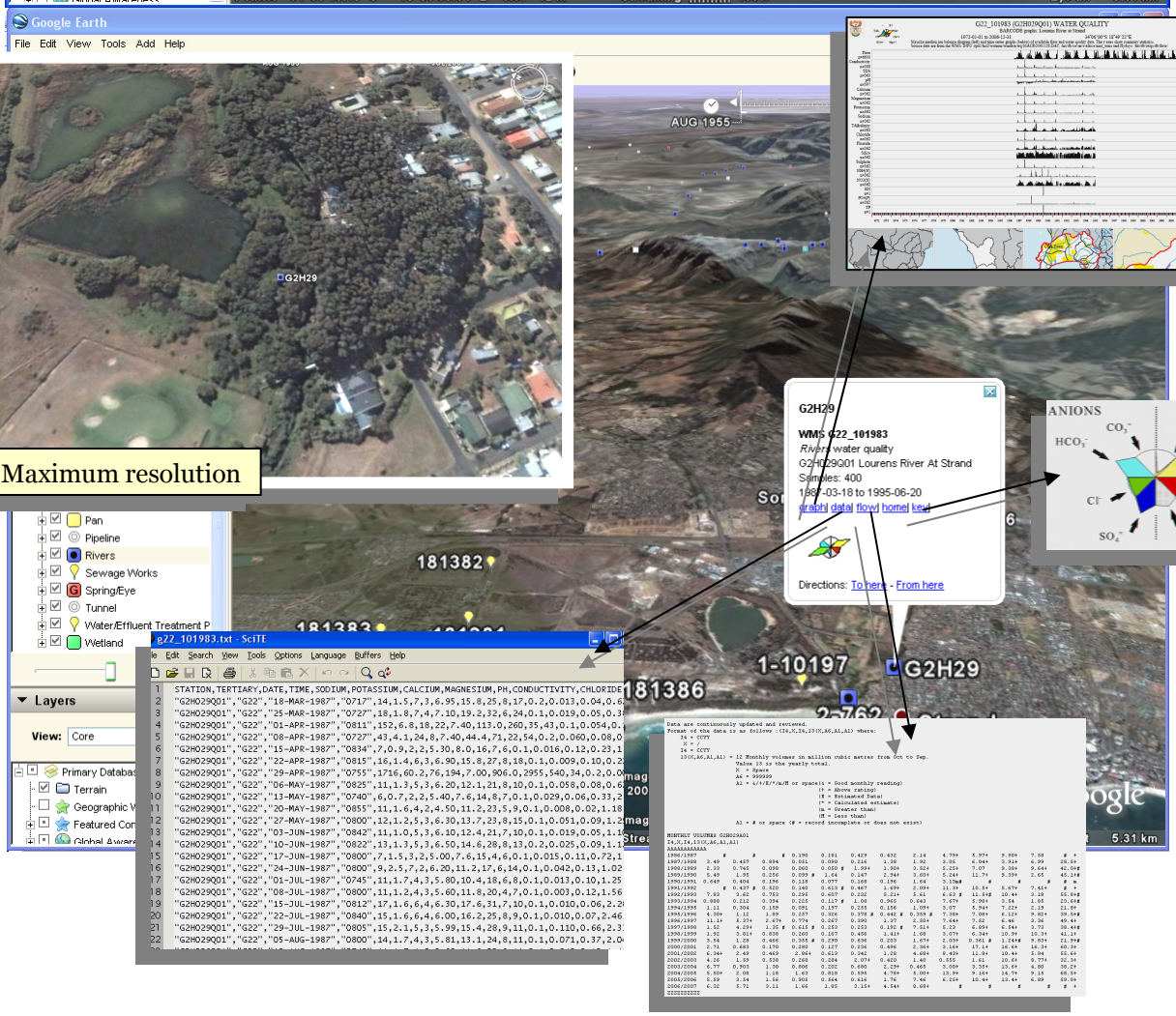


Groundwater sites, narrow time ranges

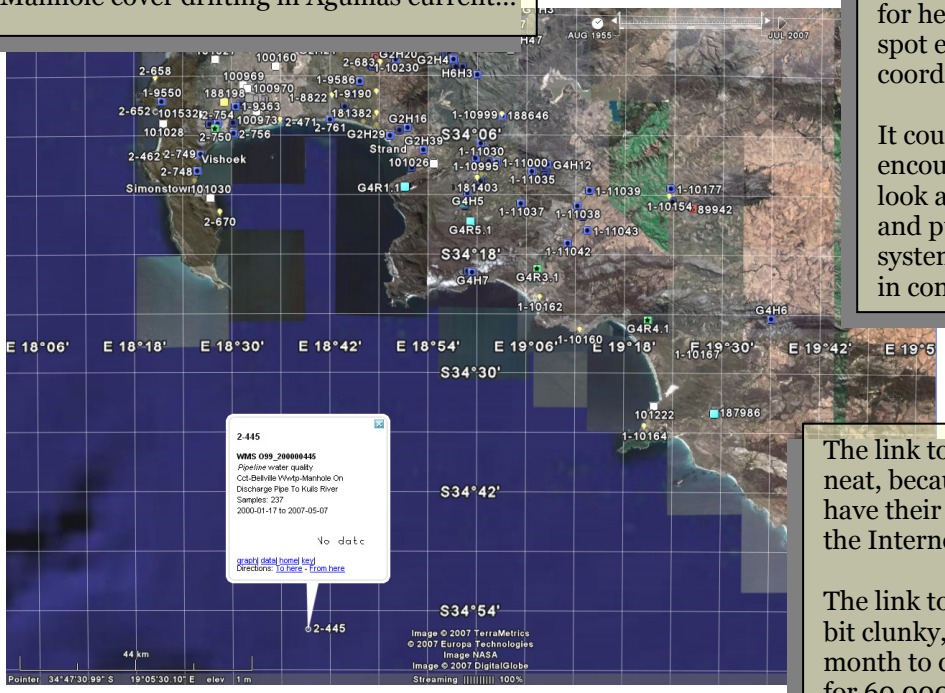


Click on a site and an information balloon pops up





Manhole cover drifting in Agulhas current...



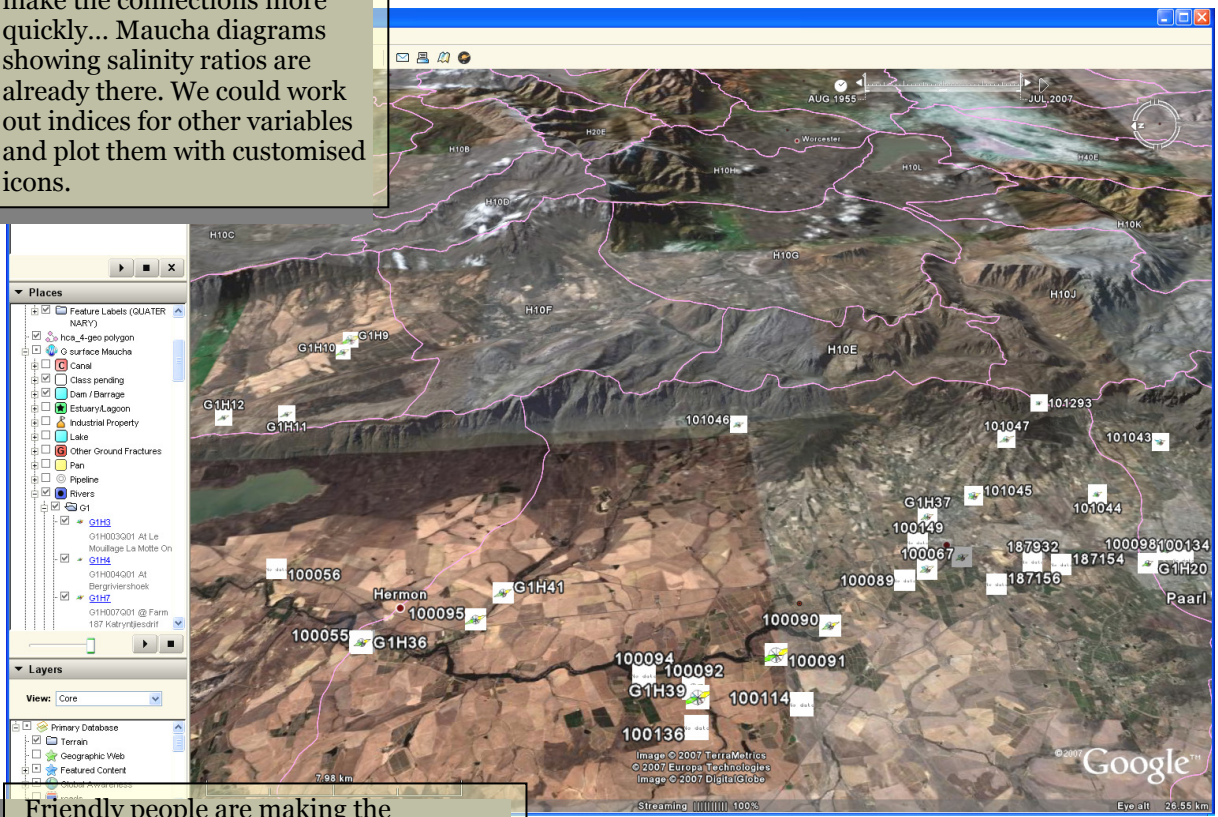
The interface has the potential for helping regional officers to spot errors and fix site coordinates.

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.