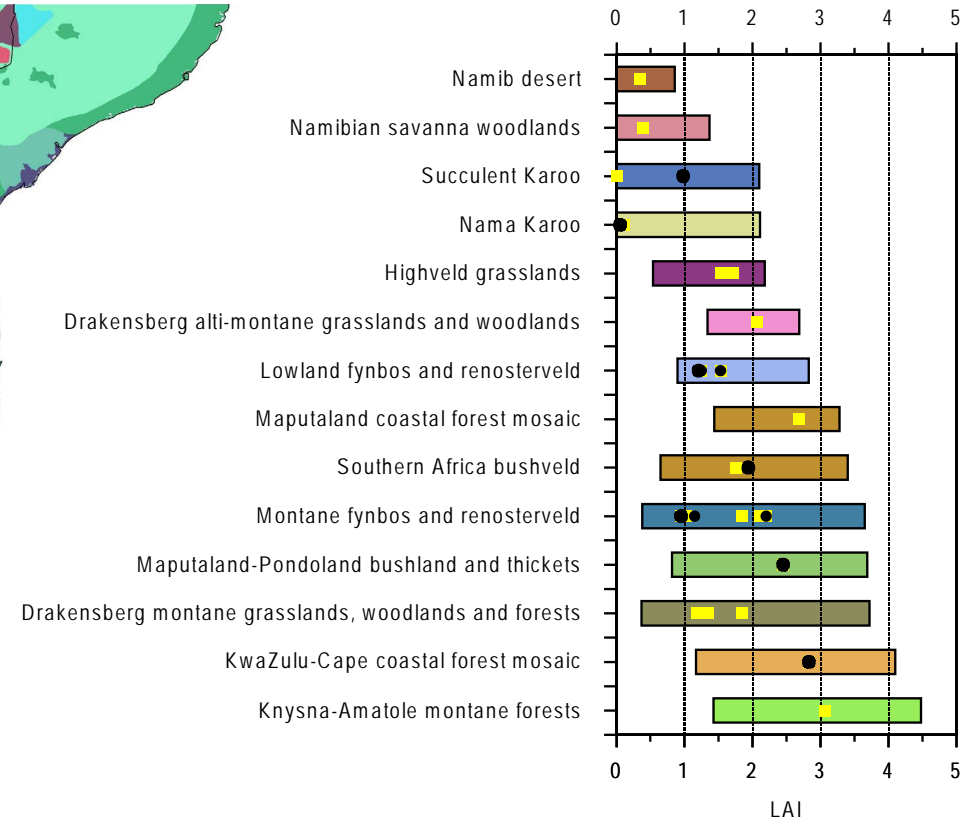
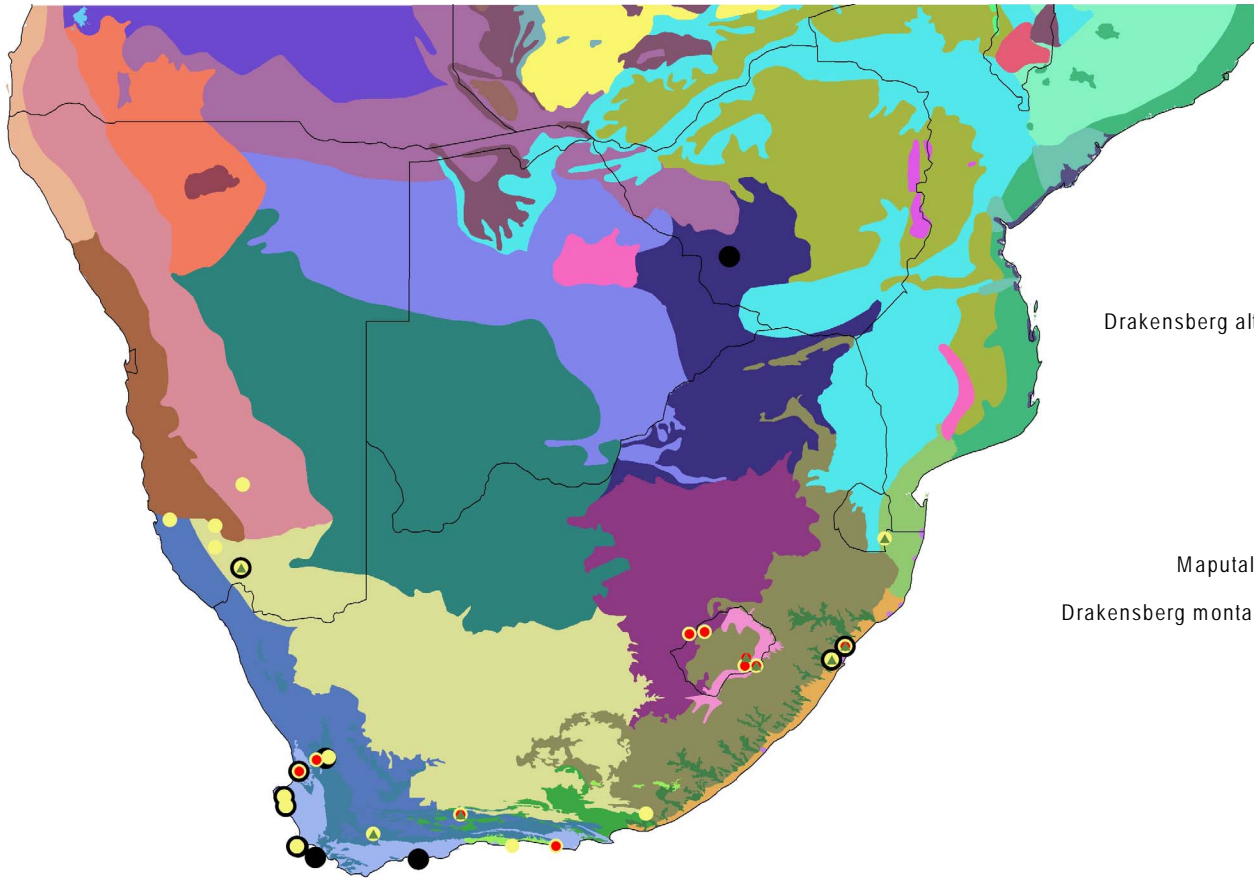




Southern African MSA sites and openness of landscape



The map shows Southern African sites with the various Middle Stone Age (MSA) technological complexes in relation to modern vegetation units (WWF ecoregions after Olsen et al. 2009). On the right, modern values of leaf area index (LAI) are given as a measure for vegetation openness; values from the single sites are put into relation to the whole LAI range of each ecoregion from which a site is recorded. Only based on these patterns, groups of Howiesons Poort (HP) and younger seem to have inhabited a wider range of environments than Stillbay (SB) people. The analysis of the fossil vegetation and climate patterns will provide more solid information if this trend reflects an expansion of ecospace of the different groups of *Homo sapiens* during later Pleistocene.

Legend

- ▲ late MSA Sites
 - post-HP Sites
 - Howiesons Poort Sites
 - Stillbay Sites
- modern LAI at sites:
- HP and younger
 - SB and younger