



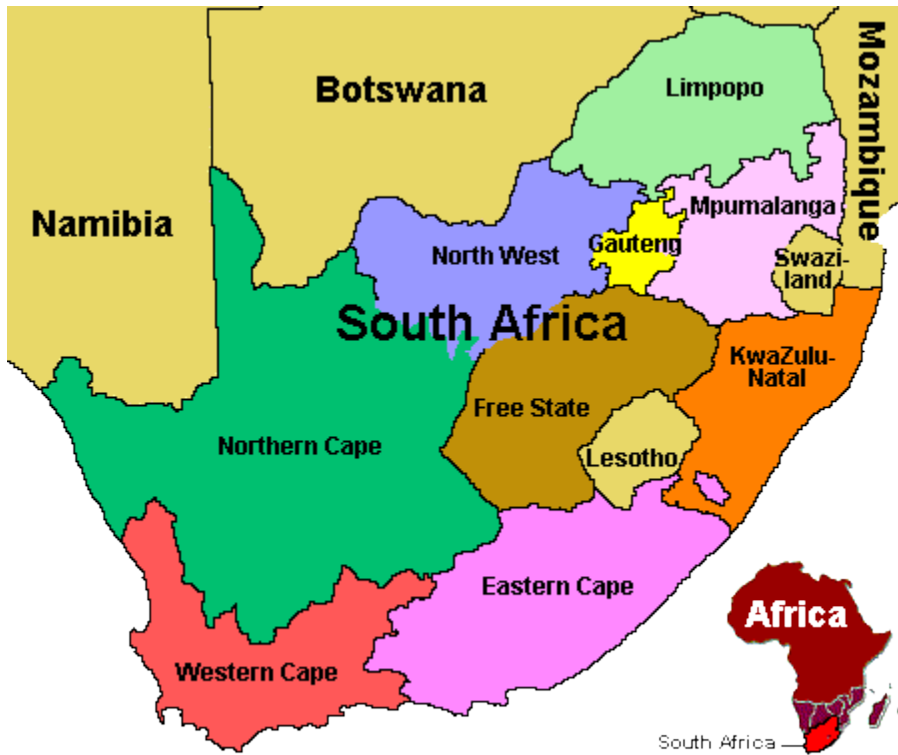
# **World Merino Conference 2018**

Thank you Uruguay  
for excellent  
conference and hospitality



# Trade Mark

- Merino South Africa registered trade mark
- One of South Africa's most valuable trade marks

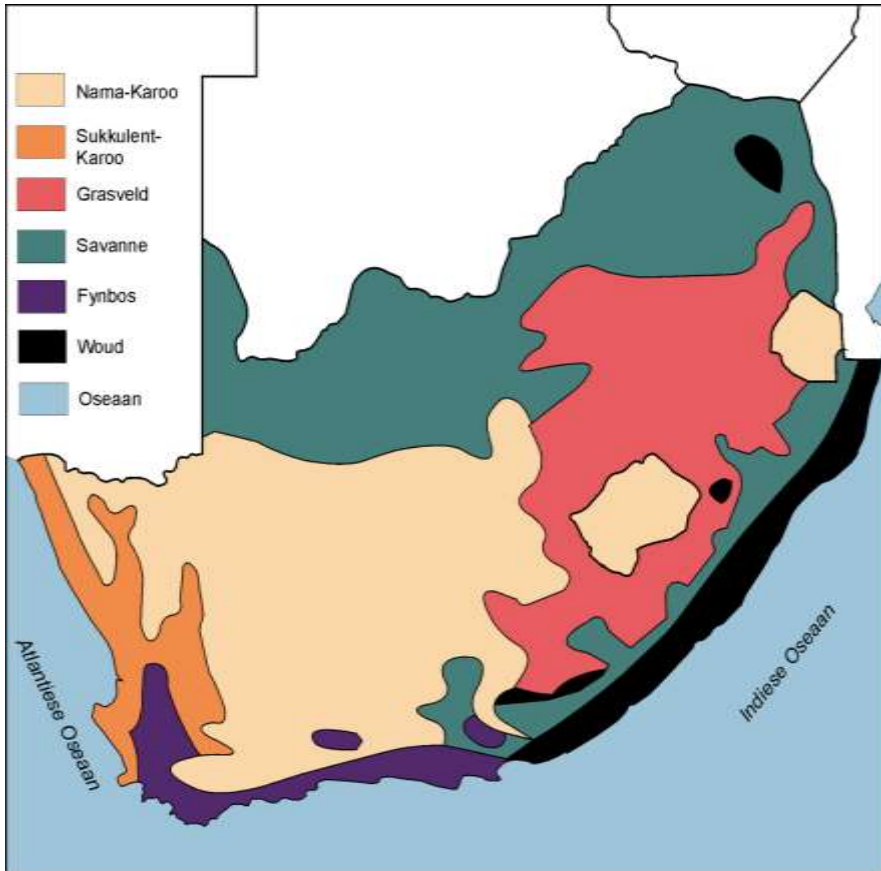


# South Africa

South Africa's  
population is  
58 million people

- Total of 20 million sheep with 14 million woolled sheep
- Merino sheep are 10 million

# Eco Systems of South Africa



- West: Semi desert
- East: High rainfall

# Karoo



- Karoo and is mostly suitable for sheep farming
- Karoo is the biggest eco system and is bigger than Germany
- The unique taste of Karoo meat from bushes and succulents



# Savanna

- Dense bushveld with harsh conditions
- Very few Merino sheep in these areas

# Grasslands



- Eastern part of South Africa
- High rainfall area with vast plains of grasslands
- Winters extremely cold because of high altitude

# Southern Cape Interior (Fynbos)



- Winter rainfall area
- Sheep grazing on crops and pastures
- Highest wool producing area per head



# Merino SA

- Merino SA: 270 members
- Rams sold: 4 400 on 68 official sales
- On property sales: 5 000 rams
- Ram price per ram in 2017:  
25% higher than 2016
- Ram price per ram in first half of 2018:  
27% higher than 2017

# Production characteristics



- The merino sheep in South Africa is a plain body sheep
- High quality wool on plain body with good meat characteristics

# Production characteristics

- Income: two thirds meat and one third wool
- High emphasis on fertility
- Weaning percentages of 120% and higher
- Most importance that Merino sheep is adaptable to the natural veld
- Flocks reproduce and wean lambs on natural veld
- Performance testing done under same conditions as flock is run

# Wool in South Africa



- South Africa produces 50 million kg wool per year
- South Africa produces 2% of the wool in the world and 15% of the garment wool in the world
- South African wool clip is 20 micron

# Wool in South Africa



- The fibre diameter stabilise on 20 micron
- Fleece weight is 3.6 kg/head with a 6.0 kg fleece per ewe
- The production conditions cause big differences in wool production

# Trends in South Africa



- South African Merino sheep has established it as the ultimate dual purpose sheep
- Big movement towards the Merino breed because of profitability
- Emphasis on wool quality and yield and less on fineness

# Trends in South Africa



- Fleece weight and staple length very important to shear every 8 months a B length (60-70 mm)
- On pastures the tendency is to shear every 6 months
- Higher weaning percentages and weaning weights

# Conclusion

The modern merino in South Africa is

- Plain body
- Rugged sheep
- Well adapted in their area
- Ewes highly fertile with excellent mothering properties
- Merino the best converter of veld and pastures into two high quality products
  - Superior quality wool
  - Excellent lambs' meat





# Thank you

Gert Smit

