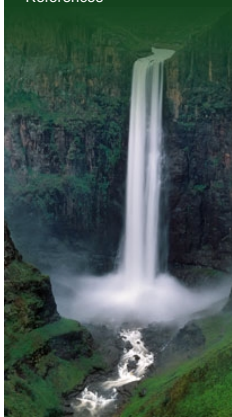


Orange-Senqu River Awareness Kit


[THE RIVER
BASIN](#)
[PEOPLE AND
THE RIVER](#)
[GOVERNANCE](#)
[RESOURCE MANAGEMENT](#)

The River Basin → Geography

- Introduction
- Geography**
- Basin Landscape
- Geomorphology
- Relief
- Geology
- Soils
- Soils of the Orange-Senqu River Basin
- Mineral Reserves
- Vegetation/Landcover
- Basins of Southern Africa
- River Basin and IWRM
- ▶ Climate and Weather
- ▶ Hydrology
- ▶ Water Quality
- ▶ Ecology and Biodiversity
- References



The Orange Senqu is the largest river basin south of the Zambezi, covering an area of approximately 1,000,000 km². This transboundary river covers the entire area of Lesotho, a large part of South Africa and southern regions of Botswana and Namibia. The Senqu flows from its source near Thabana Ntlenyana (3 482 m) in the Lesotho highlands (the tenth highest peak in Africa), becomes the Orange River at the Lesotho border, traverses central and western South Africa, forms the southern border of Namibia, and finally joins the Atlantic Ocean near Alexander Bay.

The table below shows the land covered by the basin in the four riparian states of the Orange-Senqu River:

Table : Area and Percentage of the River Basin for the Four Riparian States

Country	Area in each country(km ²)	Percentage of Basin
Botswana	79,000	7.9%
Lesotho	34,000	3.4%
Namibia	245,000	24.5%
South Africa	642,000	64.2%
Total	1,000,000	

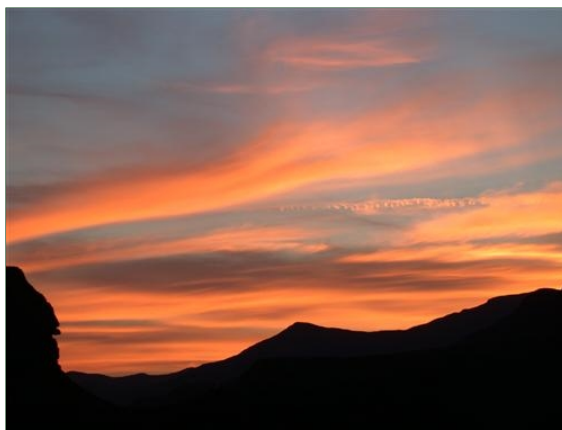
Source: ORASECOM,2009

The basin is the most developed trans-boundary river basin in the SADC region, hosting much of the industrially developed parts of Southern Africa, and includes approximately 27 storage dams (Angula 2001:6). The management of water resources in the basin is required to address a host of interrelated issues, such as [water quality](#), supply and [pollution control](#), which will be described in more detail through out the [River Basin](#) and [Resource Management](#) themes.

Chapter Summary

This chapter covers the following concepts and materials:

- An overview of the [Basin Landscape](#).
- A summary of the [Geomorphology](#) of the river basin, including relief, river profiles, soils and major mineral reserves.
- The distribution and nature of the major types of [Vegetation/Landcover](#) cover types in the Orange-Senqu River Basin.
- An overview of the [River Basins in Southern Africa](#)
- An introduction to the [The River Basin Approach](#)



Golden Gate Park, South Africa.

Source: Hughes 2004

(click to enlarge)

[Next: Basin Landscape](#) ►

Interactive

Basin Map



Explore the sub-basins of the Orange-Senqu River

[enter](#) ►

Video Tour



Tour video scenes along the Orange-Senqu River related to the River Basin

[enter](#) ►

Geography Maps



Investigate land cover and terrestrial ecoregions in the basin

[enter](#) ►

Water Cycle



Examine how the hydrologic cycle moves water through and around the earth

[enter](#) ►

Food Web



Explore the interactions of living organisms in aquatic environments

[enter](#) ►