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The River Basin

→ Ecology and Biodiversity: Life in Aquatic Ecosystems:



Classification of Organisms

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Aquatic organisms can be classified into four major groups, varying in biological characteristics, habitat, and adaptations, but linked within a complex network of ecological roles and relationships:

- [Microorganisms](#)
- [Plants](#)
- [Invertebrates](#)
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The aquatic ecosystem of a river system is generally comprised of its fish, aquatic invertebrates, riparian plants, and microorganism components. Key issues related to aquatic habitat and riparian vegetation are described below, in terms of system drivers and habitat response to stressors.

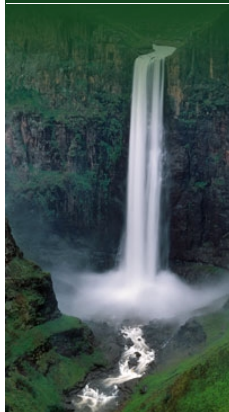


African Fish Eagle.
Source: De Wet 2006
(click to enlarge)



Small Mouth Yellowfish (Rubber Lips).
Source: Inkwazi Fly Fishing 2009
(click to enlarge)

[Next: Microorganisms](#) ▶



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Interactive

Basin Map

Explore the sub-basins of the Orange-Senqu River

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Video Tour

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

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Geography Maps

Investigate land cover and terrestrial ecoregions in the basin

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Water Cycle

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

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Food Web

Explore the interactions of living organisms in aquatic environments

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