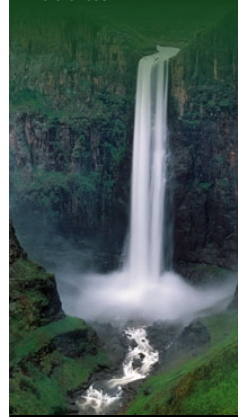


Orange-Senqu River Awareness Kit

Resource Management

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The Value of Water: Water Stock Accounts

National water accounts treat water as any other product, valuing it by the price of its transaction. Valuation techniques include goods and services derived from water in the following scenarios:

- Water as an intermediate input to production in agriculture and manufacturing
- Water as a final consumer good
- Environmental services of water for waste assimilation (UNSD 2006)

Water accounting in Southern Africa began in 1995, but only in 2006 did the United Nations (UN) release detailed and comprehensive guidelines, known as the System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting for Water (SEEAW) (Lange *et al.* 2007). In the Orange-Senqu River basin water accounts were first developed for Namibia, then for Botswana and South Africa.

These are largely based on *flow* accounts, which measure how water flows from the environment into the economy, within the economy and back into the environment (in what quality and quantity) and into other countries. Flow accounts are preferred over the alternative, *stock* accounts, because of their usefulness in policy and management (Lange *et al.* 2007). There are also *monetary* accounts that assign a value to the flow and stock accounts through pricing, costs, charges, tariffs, etc. Monetary accounts are discussed in the section on the Economic Value of water.

Policy makers use water accounting to determine physical and economic implications water supply and allocation (Lange and Hassan 2006). Water accounts allow policymakers to use economic models to make informed decisions about infrastructure development and water allocation to the different economic divisions. Water accounts and the value of water in the basin states are discussed in the following pages.

- [Botswana](#)
- [Namibia](#)
- [South Africa](#)

For [Lesotho](#), no water accounts have been compiled to date, a discussion about the economic valuation of water in Lesotho can be found in the Lange *et al.* (2007) study: *Water accounting for the Orange River Basin: An economic perspective on managing a transboundary resource.*



A pre-paid water tap in Gobabis, Namibia.
Source: DRFN 2005
(click to enlarge)

For more information on Water Stock Accounts, please refer to the [SADC Economic Accounting for Water](http://www.sadcwateraccounting.org) website:

[Next: Botswana](#) ►

Interactive

Basin Map

Explore the sub-basins of the Orange-Senqu River

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Water Management

Explore the water management systems around the basin - including intra-basin transfers and sectoral water requirements

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Dams

Investigate the dams and water infrastructure in the Orange-Senqu basin

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Video Tour

Tour video scenes along the Orange-Senqu River related to Meeting the Water Challenge

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Listen to a panel discussion about the history and challenges in the Orange-Senqu basin

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