The River Basin

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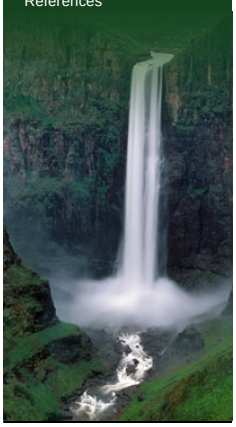

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Water Quality: Principles of Water Quality:

Suspended Sediment

Suspended sediment is characterised as the mass of suspended sediment per unit volume of water, in units of mg/L, and is commonly expressed as TSS (Total Suspended Sediment). Particles suspended within the water column are usually less than 0,1 mm in diameter, and are mostly silt- and clay-sized particles. These particles are transported by flowing water, and settle out when flow is insufficient to keep them in suspension. Concentrations of suspended sediment generally increase during periods of increasing flow from rainfall, reach a maximum at or near the peak of a storm hydrograph, and decrease relatively rapidly with the hydrograph recession limb.

The Orange River, near Upington, South Africa; a region impacted by water quality issues such as suspended sediments from upstream sources.
Source:Kruchem 2008
(click to enlarge)

Next: Salinity

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
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