



Resource Management

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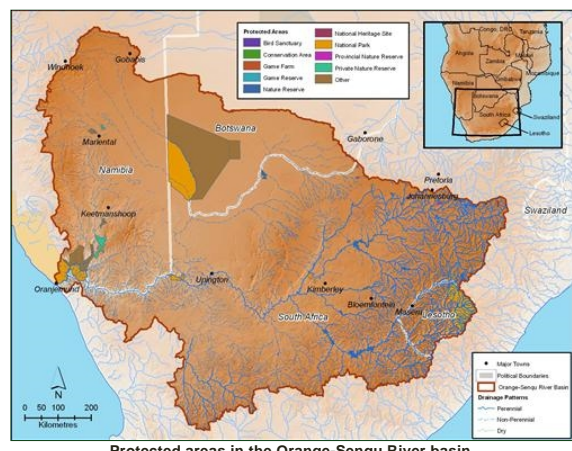
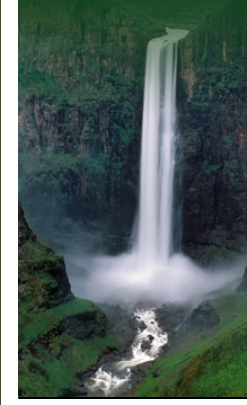
Water Demand in the Basin: **Recreation and Tourism**

In southern Africa, nature-based tourism highlights the region's biodiversity and natural features, and is rapidly becoming a powerful economic sector. It has scope to grow much larger, but also has the potential to undermine its own foundation by insensitive development, pollution and overcrowding. Ecosystem management policies need to include the ecotourism sector and regulate it; developed correctly, ecotourism can be a tool to encourage nature conservation.

Ecotourism has also been integrated with social development in many areas of southern Africa through Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) and the involvement of traditional life-ways.

For more information about CBNRM in southern Africa, please refer to the Southern Africa CBNRM Forum website: <http://sacfnr.org/>

Please, see for details and examples the [Ecotourism page](#) in the [Sustainable Livelihoods](#) section of the [People and the River](#) theme.



Protected areas in the Orange-Senqu River basin.
Source: Hatfield 2009
(click to enlarge)

Tourism is an important contributor to the economy of **Botswana**, where in the Orange-Senqu River basin especially the [Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park](#), a large wildlife conservation area along the border between South Africa and Botswana, is a fascinating destination.

In **Lesotho** the scenic beauty of the mountain ranges has led to the development of ecotourism ventures (e.g. pony-trekking and mountain-biking) that, to some extent, involve the surrounding communities and contribute to their incomes.

In **Namibia** tourism and recreation is highly developed in Namibia, with a large percentage of the population engaged in tourism related activities, contributing approximately 10% of GDP in 2006 and 11% of employment ([Namibia Tourism Board](#) 2006).

In **South Africa**, the recreational use of water is one of the 11 water uses regulated by the National Water Act (NWA 1998). The Department of Water Affairs (DWA) is developing a national policy towards "Recreation on Dams and Rivers" that will regulate the impacts from power-boating, swimming and other activities that can affect water quality and aquatic biota (DWA 2004c). The responsibility for public waters in South Africa has largely been transferred to local authorities with broad principles determined by the DWA. The needs of adventure tourism can be aligned with ecological flow requirements when, for example, water is released from a dam at a rate and quantity that benefits both users. The Upper Vaal and Fish River canoe marathons are examples of where this can be applied.



Rafting on the Vaal River is a very popular eco-tourism activity, bringing significant revenue to the region.
Source: Fourie 2006
(click to enlarge)



Kgalagadi Nature Reserve.
Source: ©Stockphoto/Smit 2008
(click to enlarge)

Interactive

Basin Map

Explore the sub-basins of the Orange-Senqu River

enter

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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Panel Discussion

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

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