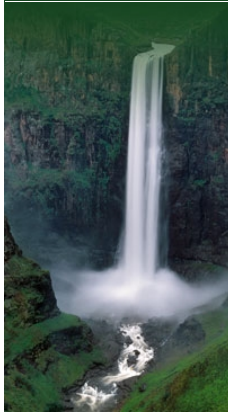


# Orange-Senqu River Awareness Kit

[THE RIVER  
BASIN](#)[PEOPLE AND  
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## The River Basin

- Introduction
- ▶ Geography
- ▶ Climate and Weather
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- ▶ **Water Quality**
- Principles of Water Quality
- Biological Water Quality Parameters
- ▶ **Spiritual Meaning of Water**
- Human Impacts to Water Quality
- Acidity, Heavy Metals and Radionuclides
- Groundwater Quality
- Water Quality Fitness for Use
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Water Quality:

### Spiritual Meaning of Water

Apart from its essential biological role for sustaining life, water also has important spiritual, cultural, and religious meaning for indigenous cultures. There are many traditions, rituals, rules and stories connected with water as an essence of life, which (in the form of springs, rivers, lakes and waterfalls) are closely connected with local history and beliefs.

However, many of these traditions are slowly being lost due to cultural modernisation of our societies. There is presently some a debate with respect to how far these traditions can be retained, not only to preserve as a cultural heritage, but also as an instrument of sustainable water resource management. Some examples of areas surrounded by local traditions in the Orange-Senqu River basin include:

- **Maletsunyane Falls**, in Lesotho
- **Augrabies Falls**, in South Africa
- **Fish River Canyon**, in Namibia
- **Kalahari Desert**, covering most of Botswana.

For more details turn to the [History and Water-Related Culture](#) section in the "People and the River" theme.



**Maletsunyane Falls, in Lesotho.**

Source: *Lesotho Water Commission 2005*  
(click to enlarge)

[Next: Human Impacts on Water Quality in the Orange-Senqu River Basin](#)

## 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](#)