

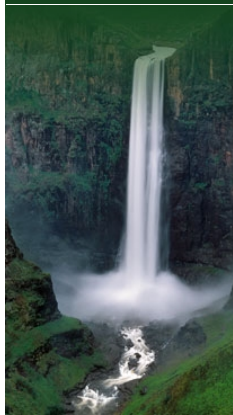


Orange-Senqu River Awareness Kit


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

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Climate and Weather:

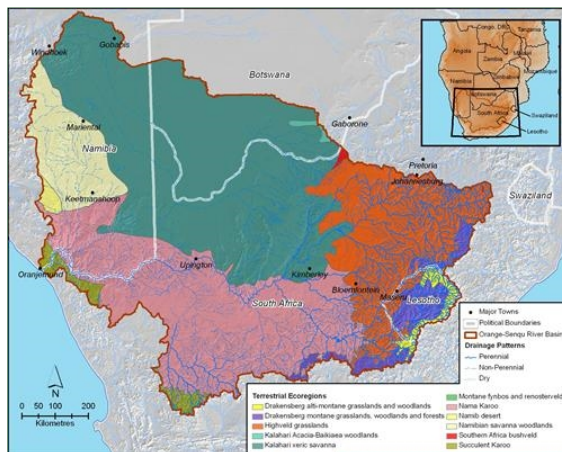
Climate of the Orange-Senqu River Basin

Within the geographically extremely heterogenic Orange-Senqu River basin there are enormous climatic differences. The climate in the basin is usually discussed in terms of these regions

- The mountainous terrain of the Maloti Mountains of Lesotho - this region experiences a relatively temperate climate, defining the ecosystems and to a large extent the livelihoods possible in this region.
- The undulating dry grasslands of the southern Highveld - a climatic and geographic transition zone from the mountainous regions.
- The western region of southern Africa - containing three desert systems, characterized by harsh arid conditions:
 - The Succulent Karoo – experiencing highly variable and inconsistent rainfall throughout the year
 - The Nama Karoo - receiving mainly summer rainfall and comprising a number of different vegetation types
 - The Southern Kalahari – consisting of deep wind-blown sand, which allows little or no run-off from rainfall

(UNDP-GEF 2008)

The map below illustrates the distribution of these terrestrial ecoregions across the Orange-Senqu River basin.



Terrestrial Ecoregions of the Orange-Senqu River basin.

Source:WWF 2001
(click to enlarge)



The altitude and mountains of the Lesotho Highlands ensure a temperate climate.

Source:Lesotho Water Commission 2009
(click to enlarge)



The arid Nama Karoo.

Source:DRFN 2004
(click to enlarge)

The physical factors that create distinct climatic zones and the variability within these zones are discussed in the following sections.

[Next: The Regional Climate of Southern Africa](#) ▶



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

[enter](#) ▶

Food Web

Explore the interactions of living organisms in aquatic environments

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