

Orange-Senqu River Awareness Kit

[THE RIVER
BASIN](#)[PEOPLE AND
THE RIVER](#)[GOVERNANCE](#)[RESOURCE MANAGEMENT](#)

Resource Management

- Introduction
- Water Demand**
- Water Demand in the Basin
- Water Demand Management
- Water Use and Allocation
- Agriculture
 - Botswana**
 - Lesotho
 - Namibia
 - South Africa
- Urban and Rural Consumption
- Mining and Industry
- Hydroelectric Power Generation
- Environmental Flows
- Recreation and Tourism
- Conservation and Re-use
 - Water Infrastructure
 - The Value of Water
 - Resource Monitoring
- References



Feedback

[send a general website comment](#)
[report a specific problem with this page](#)

Water Demand in the Basin: Water Demand Management and Agriculture: Botswana

Between 1966 and 2003 the contribution of the agricultural sector to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) dropped from 40 % to 2,5 %. This decrease is partly due to the increasing contribution from Botswana's successful mining industry to the GDP and partly due to recurrent droughts. Despite the decrease, 50 % of the population are still reliant on the agriculture sector as a source of food and income. Botswana exports livestock and imports a significant part of its cereal requirements from South Africa.

As with many southern African cultures, livestock agriculture is a fundamental element of life for the Batswana people. Crop and livestock production are practiced at both the traditional (subsistence) and commercial level in Botswana. These types of agriculture differ in the use of the final product, land tenure and use of technology.

Today Botswana is seriously overstocked with cattle – with serious consequences for the groundwater level and groundwater quality. For details consult the [Groundwater Quality](#) page of the [Water Quality](#) chapter in the [River Basin](#) theme.



The cattle and beef industry is very important in Botswana.

Source: Reed 2009
(click to enlarge)

[Next: Lesotho](#)

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

[enter](#)

Dams

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

[enter](#)

Video Tour

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

[enter](#)

Panel Discussion

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

[enter](#)