

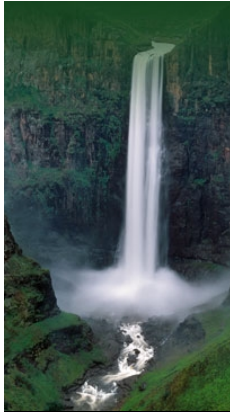
Orange-Senqu River Awareness Kit


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

The River Basin

Geography: Basins of Southern Africa

- Introduction
- ▼ **Geography**
- Basin Landscape
- Geomorphology
- Vegetation/Landcover
- **Basins of Southern Africa River Basin and IWRM**
- Climate and Weather
- Hydrology
- Water Quality
- Ecology and Biodiversity
- References



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There are 15 recognised transboundary river basins in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. They range in size from the large Congo River Basin (3 730 470 km²) in the northern part of SADC, to Umbeluzi River Basin (5 500 km²) in the southeast. The Zambezi River Basin (1 390 000 km²) covers eight SADC member states. It is estimated that about 70 % of the water resources in the SADC region are shared by more than one country. Thus one of the characteristic features in the region, is shared watercourse systems, with complex water rights and potential conflicts over utilisation of the shared resources (SADC 2005).

The table below lists the river basins, selected river characteristics (basin area, river length and mean annual runoff [MAR]) and the riparian states that they include.

Transboundary River Basins in SADC.				
River	Basin Area (km ²)	River Length (km)	MAR (Mm ³)	Riparian States
Buzi	31 000	250	2,5	Zimbabwe, Mozambique
Congo	3 730 470	4 700	1 260 000	Angola, Burundi, Rwanda, Central African Republic, Tanzania, Congo, Cameroon, DR Congo, Zambia
Cuvelai	100 000	430	Ephemeral	Angola, Namibia
Incomati	49 965	480	3,5	South Africa, Swaziland, Mozambique
Kunene	106 500	1 050	5,5	Angola, Namibia
Limpopo	408 000	1 750	5,5	Botswana, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique
Maputo-Usutu-Pongola	32 000	380	2,5	South Africa, Swaziland, Mozambique
Nile	3 254 555	6 700	86	Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda, D R Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt
Okavango	530 000	1 100	11	Angola, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Botswana
Orange-Senqu	721 000	2 300	11,5	Lesotho, South Africa, Botswana, Namibia
Pungwe	32 500	300	3	Zimbabwe, Mozambique
Ruvuma	155 500	800	15	Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique
Save/Sabi	106 420	740	7	Zimbabwe, Mozambique
Umbeluzi	5 500	200	0,6	Swaziland, Mozambique
Zambezi	1 390 000	2 650	94	Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, Mozambique

Adapted SADC 2010

The map below shows the distribution of transboundary river basins in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.



The International Basins of Southern Africa.
Source: Hatfield, 2010
(click to enlarge)



Basin Map

Explore the sub-basins of the Orange-Senqu River

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Tour video scenes along the Orange-Senqu River related to the River Basin

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Investigate land cover and terrestrial ecoregions in the basin

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