

Orange-Senqu River Commission

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South Africa

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ORASECOM



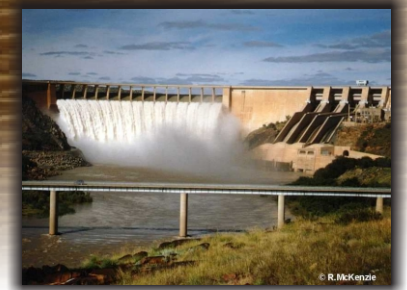
Botswana | Lesotho | Namibia | South Africa



Vaal-Orange Confluence



Richtersveld



Vanderkloof Dam

BACKGROUND

The Orange-Senqu River, located in Southern Africa, is the largest watercourse system south of the Zambezi. The 2 300 km long River originates in Lesotho, where the River is called the Senqu. The Orange-Senqu River drains almost the entire plateau of South Africa and the total basin, covering 1 million km², spreads over four countries: Lesotho, South Africa, Namibia and Botswana. The average annual natural run-off from the total basin is estimated to be in the order of 11 900 million m³ per annum. Due to many developments and growing number of water consumers, less than half of the flow reaches the River mouth.

The governments of the four riparian States are well aware of the critical paucity of water resources in the Southern African Region. They have agreed to collaborate and to develop the River System in a sustainable way as a water source of common interest which shall significantly contribute towards the mutual benefit, peace, security, welfare and prosperity of their peoples.

ORANGE-SENQU RIVER COMMISSION

towards greater cooperation, strengthened regional solidarity and enhanced socio-economic development

The agreement to formally establish the Orange-Senqu River Commission was signed on 3 November 2000 at Okapuka, near Windhoek, Namibia, by the Ministers responsible for Water Affairs in the four basin States, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa. The Commission advises the member States on the development, utilisation and conservation of the water resources of the Orange-Senqu River Basin.

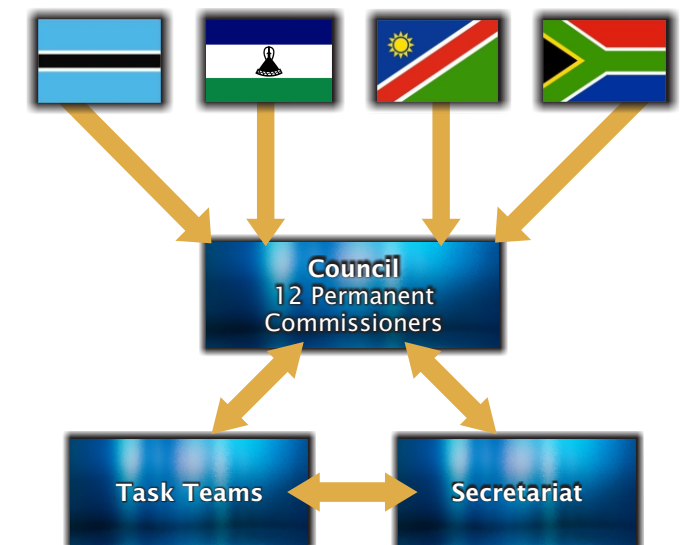
The agreement was the culmination of fruitful negotiations and had sealed a joint commitment to work together in the development of the Orange-Senqu River for the benefit of all. It was not only the first agreement to establish a river basin institution on a shared River since the Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourse Systems had become an instrument of international water law in the Southern African Development Community, but the Agreement conformed with the best international practice regarding the joint management of shared Rivers.

The driving force remains the potential benefit through the equitable and reasonable utilisation of water sources in the River System to support sustainable development in each country. The executive functions remain with the relevant Water Authorities of the four member States. Existing or future bilateral River commissions between the basin States are complementary to ORASECOM.

WORKING STRUCTURE

The Commission comprises of the Council as its highest body, and various Task Teams (TTs) who manage all projects. Each member State is represented by one delegation comprising three commissioners.

The meetings of the Commission and the venue rotate between the countries. The leader of delegation of the host country chairs the meeting.



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

The following major activities receive attention:

- organisational development;
- development of rules and procedures for meetings;
- establishment of a secretariat;
- enhancement of technical staff capacity;
- participation in global water events;
- exchange of expertise with other river commissions;
- preparation and implementation of activities contributing towards an integrated Water Resource Management Plan for the entire River Basin



Aussenkehr



SASOL, Secunda

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATING PARTNERS

African Development Bank (AfDB) /
African Water Initiative
European Union (EU)
European Water Initiative
France (French Global Environmental Facility, FGEF)
Germany (German International Cooperation, GIZ)
United Nations (UNDP) Global Environmental Facility (GEF)

DELEGATIONS



Delegation of the Republic of Botswana

Ministry of Minerals, Energy and Water Resources
Private Bag 0018
Gaborone
Botswana



Delegation of the Kingdom of Lesotho

Ministry of Energy, Meteorology and Water Affairs
P.O. Box 772
Maseru
Lesotho



Delegation of the Republic of Namibia

Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry
Private Bag 13184
Windhoek
Namibia



Delegation of the Republic of South Africa

Department of Water Affairs
Private Bag X313
Pretoria
South Africa

ORASECOM

1 river -
4 nations



Vaal Dam



Botswana



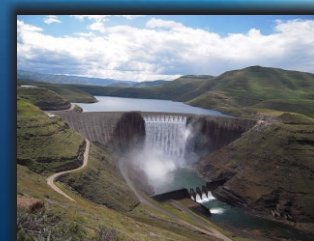
Irrigation



Hardap Dam



Senqu River



Katse Dam



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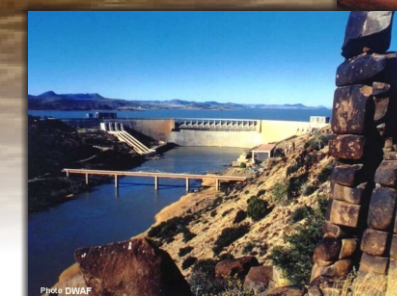
Bloemhof Dam



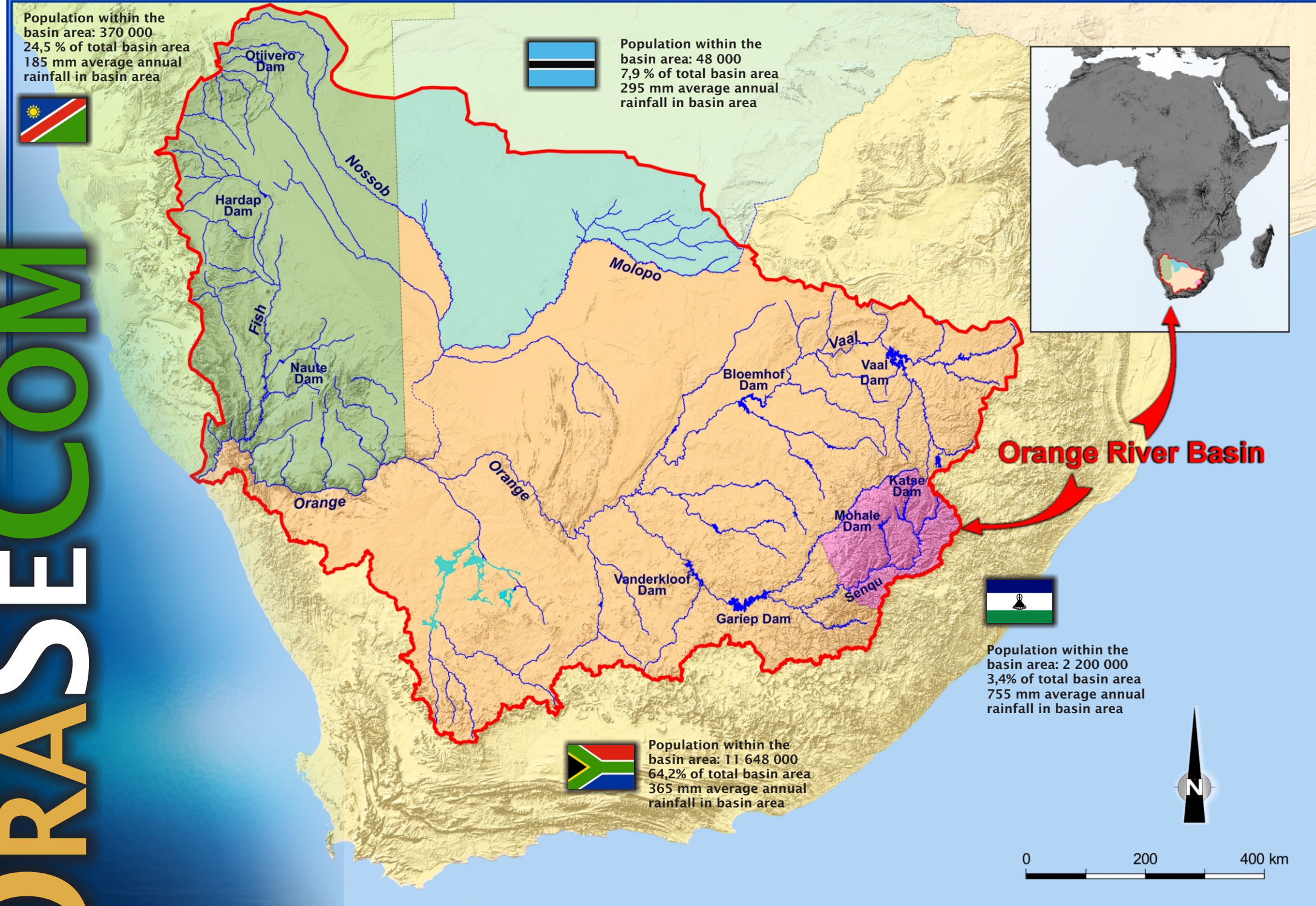
Mohale Dam



Vioolsdrift Weir



Gariep Dam



BASIN FACTS

- total basin area: 1 million km²
- total population: 14,27 million
- annual runoff: 11 900 million m³
- 2005 water demand: 5 500 million m³/a
- number of large dams: 29

RUNOFF AND POPULATION DISTRIBUTION:

Countries:	South Africa	Namibia	Lesotho	Botswana
Natural runoff as % of total	53,0	5,2	41,5	0,3
% of basin population in a country	81,7	2,6	15,4	0,3

SUMMARY OF 2005 WATER USE (Mm³):

Countries*:	Lesotho	Namibia	South Africa
Irrigation	9	60	3 273
Urban, Industrial, Mining	11	16	2 115
TOTAL	20	76	5388

* Water use in Botswana is negligible