



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND LAND REFORM

Tel.: (061) 2087111
Fax: (061) 221733

Government Office Park
Private Bag 13184
WINDHOEK

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PUBLIC NOTICE

ALERT:

FLOOD UPDATE AND EARLY WARNING FOR THE ORANGE, ZAMBEZI AND CUVELAI RIVER SYSTEMS

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) would like to alert the public, most especially those in the Lower Orange River, and Eastern Zambezi Floodplains of possible high river flows and flooding which might cause prolonged inundation in the coming days.

Lower Orange River:

MAWLR learned that there is high rainfall development in the main headwaters of the Vaal-Orange system in South Africa. As a result major overflows and releases had to be made from Bloemhof, Gariep and Vanderkloof major dams over the past weekend. The high flows moved down the Lower Orange River and at Blouputs, the water level started rising rapidly since the afternoon of the Friday, 17 February 2023 from 0.52m to 3.33 m on 20th February 2023.

The major upstream dams remain above 100%. It is expected that the flows in the Lower Orange River will remain high in the coming weeks with more water on its way, as a result of further overflows and releases from the upstream dams.

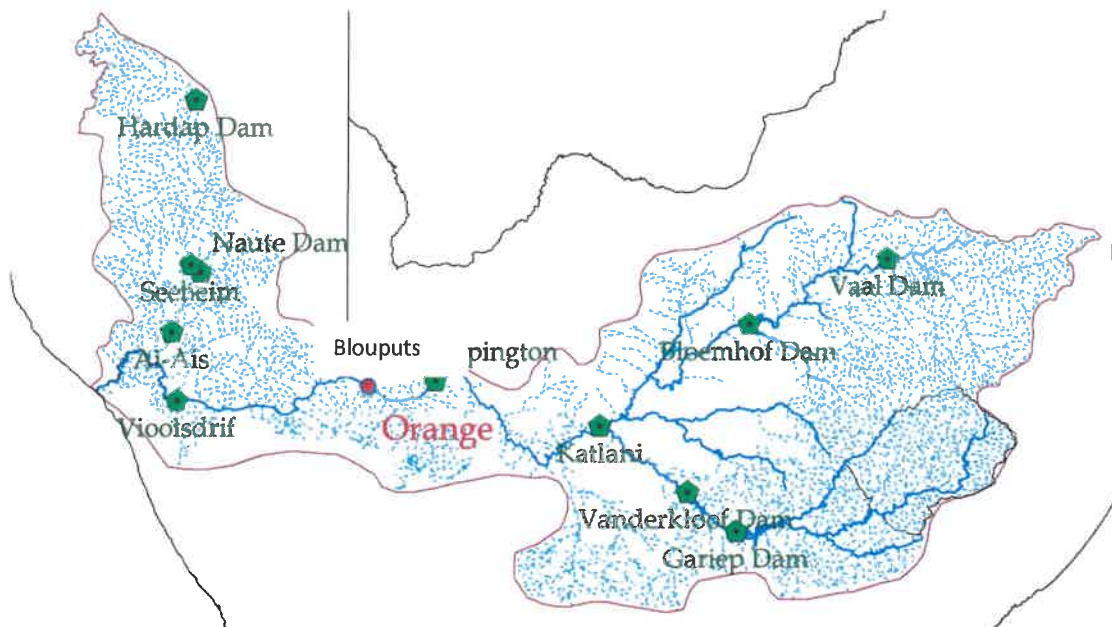
Dam levels of the Vaal-Orange System as of 20th February 2023:

(Courtesy of DWA South Africa)

Dam	% Full Capacity	Releases/Outflow m ³ /s	Comments
Vaal	117.50	2979.17	12 Gates are open
Bloemhof	107.7	3200	
Gariep	112.32	1598.55	
Vanderkloof	109.32	1447.5	

Communities, Water Users, Irrigation areas (Noordoewer, and settlement in Aussenker), Mines, road users, the lowest part of the Orange River Oranjemund area etc. are advised to be on high alert for possible high river flows and flooding.

Maps of the Orange River with some of the hydrological monitoring stations



Map of the Vaal-Orange system

Zambezi River and Eastern Zambezi Floodplains:

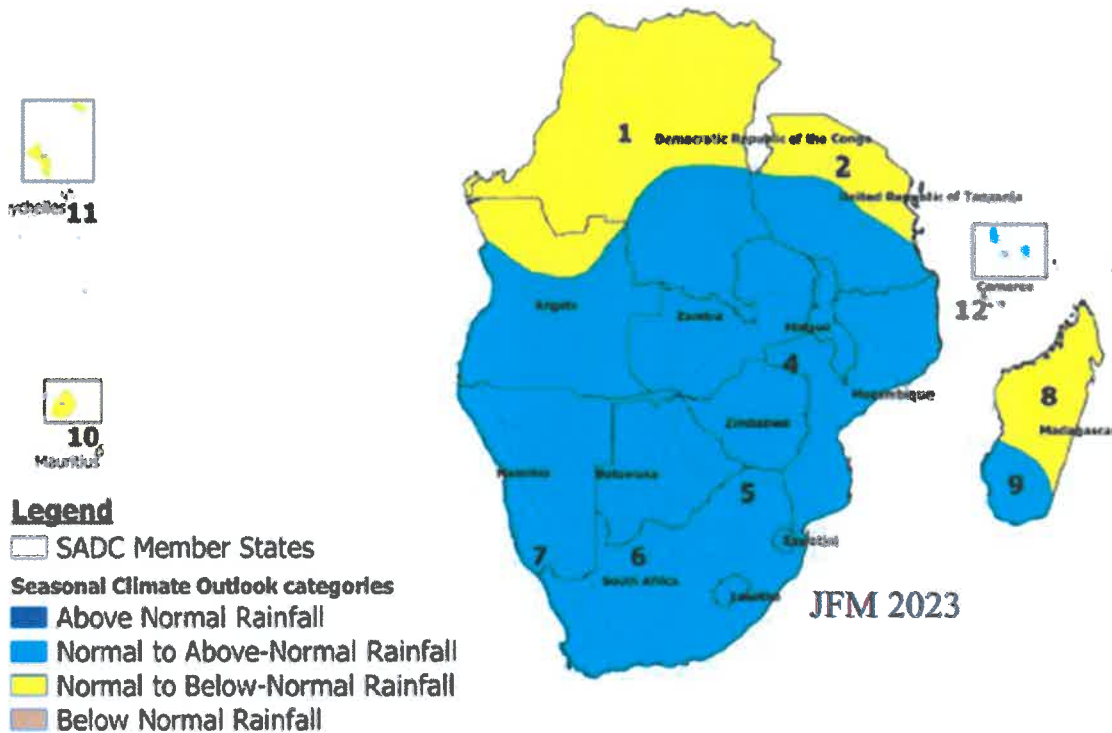
The Zambezi River level maintains its steady rise at Katima Mulilo. The first flood wave reached the Zambezi River at Katima Mulilo early last week. The river starts overflowing its banks when it reach the 4 meter mark at Katima Mulilo. The hydrological station recorded 5.29 m the morning of 20th February 2023. Early higher flood alert and readiness is advised for the eastern Zambezi floodplains as river levels are expected to rise due to good rainfall development in the upstream part of the Zambezi catchment.

Cuvelai River channels (Iishana) - Cuvelai-Etoshia Basin:

The water levels in the channels of the eastern and central zones of the Cuvelai ephemeral river system are levelling off, however, the levels remain high for this time of the year. The observed high levels may exceed the 2011 flood, being the highest recorded flood in recent memory in the Cuvelai Etosha Basin if more rains persist in the Cuvelai catchment.

Seasonal forecast for the remaining rainy season

According to the SADC SARCOF seasonal rainfall forecast, this year will be a *La Nina* year, which means that normal to above-normal rainfall is expected.



(Map source SADC CSC)

Namibia flood-prone areas include the Cuvelai-Etosha Basin, Okavango River and banks, Zambezi River banks and eastern Zambezi floodplains, Lower Kuiseb catchment, Hardap - Down stream of the Fish River- Mariental, the Lower Orange River and the Kunene River. Therefore, communities that live in flood prone areas are advised to be on alert for possible flooding events and emergencies.


 Ms Ndiyakupi Nghituwamata
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

