

Drought mitigation for water security: Interim Operating Rules for the Lower Olifants River

Technical Documentation

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Contents

1. Introduction and rationale	1
1.2 Purpose of the report	2
2. Determination of De-Hoop dam releases needed to meet target flows downstream	4
2.1 Overview of approach	4
2.2 Hydrology	4
2.3 Calculating the near-real time EWRs	5
2.3.1 Methodology	5
2.3.2 Selection of sites at which to monitor flow compliance	5
2.3.3 Storage of water in dams.....	7
2.3.4 Examples of EWR compliance monitoring	7
2.4 Determination of near-real time target flows for the drought period	9
2.4.1 Principles for shifting industrial and urban allocation for LNW	9
2.4.2 General Principles	9
2.4.3 Scenario of early warning system against stochastic hydrology	10
3. Quantifying recommended releases from De Hoop Dam	10
3.1 Current scenario.....	10
3.2 Sustainability for De Hoop Water Resources	11
4. Plan of Action	13
5. Conclusion	14
References	15
APPENDIX A: WReMP Systems Diagram for Olifants Catchment	16
APPENDIX B: ecological water requirements at selected sites in flow duration format	17
Appendix C: Letter of Response, DWS	25
Appendix D: Example User Interface WReMP model for Olifants system	27
 Figure 1.1: The Lower Olifants River Basin. The key EWR sites that are near a gauge station are indicated.	3
Figure 3. 1: Scenario 1: Performance of De Hoop Dam with support to Lepelle Northern Water ..	12
Figure 3. 2: Scenario 2: Release from De Hoop to support LNW and all the EWRs on the lower Olifants River	13

Table 2. 1: Summary of hydrology and water use cumulative at each EWR site (units are million m ³ /annum) based on WR2012 data	5
Table 2. 2 EWR sites and related real-time gauges	6
Table 2. 3: Ecological water requirements based on the gazetted RQOs (March 2016).....	6
Table 2. 4 Significant Dams in the Olifants River catchment	7
Table 2. 5: Observed flows observed at real-time gauges associated with an EWR site	7
Table 2. 6: Consumptive bulk water demand upstream of Lower Olifants EWR sites.....	8
Table 2. 7:.....	10
Table 3. 1: Minimum flows at B7H026.....	10
Table 3. 2: Recommended release as of the 5 th of September 2016.....	11

Abbreviations

DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation
DSS	Decision Support System
EWR	Ecological Water Requirement
FSC	Full Supply Capacity
KNP	Kruger National Park
LNW	Lepelle Northern Water
LOROC	Lower Olifants River Operations Committee
MAP	Mean Annual Precipitation
MAR	Mean Annual Runoff
ORWRDP	Olifants River Water Resources Development Project
RESILIM-O	Resilience in the Limpopo Basin - Olifants
WMA	Water Management Area
WReMP	Water Resources Modelling Platform

1. Introduction and rationale

The extreme drought conditions experienced in the north-eastern region of South Africa for the past 12 months as a result of the current El Nino conditions pose challenges for sustainable water management in the Olifants Catchment (Figure 1.1) as a matter of urgency. Previous experience has highlighted the potential impacts including flow cessation especially within the Kruger National Park, non-compliance with the Reserve, compromised domestic water supplies, and reduced cross-border flows to neighbouring Mozambique. For example in 2005, despite the massive legislative changes of 1998, the Olifants River stopped flowing within the Kruger National Park (KNP) such that cross-border flows to Mozambique also ceased for 78 days. During January 2016 (at the height of the wet season), the flows for the Olifants River at Mamba Weir (B7H015) in the KNP dropped to 1 m³/s for significant periods, despite the Environmental Water Requirements (EWR, or ecological reserve) being 4.3 m³/s (drought requirement at 99th percentile). This situation posed serious risks of flow cessation once more and also for Lepelle Northern Water (LNW¹) which is already constrained by limited storage capacity, to supply bulk water to users from the Phalaborwa Barrage, and also to operate the barrage in such a way that the EWR would be maintained downstream toward the KNP.

The KNP and LNW notified the Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS) on 6 January 2016 that inflows to the Phalaborwa Barrage were inadequate to meet the EWR releases from the barrage. Uncertainties remained on appropriate augmentation options from the Blyderivierspoort dam to initiate the recommended operating rules for that system (DWA, 2011), for which LNW and the EWR have an allocation. As a result a Lower Olifants River Operations Committee (LOROC) was established during February 2016 to address these water supply issues amongst key sectors in the lower Olifants Catchment, through the:

- Implementation of the Operating Rules to Integrate the Blyde system with the Olifants River System, and thereto
- Promote urgent development and implementation of Operating Rules for the De Hoop dam²

With no sign of the drought lifting, and indeed potentially continuing into the wet season emergency plans were discussed. Through the LOROC, recommendations (see below) were made to the Director-General of DWS in July 2016 to utilise products being developed through the RESilience in the LIMpopo Olifants (RESILIM-O) program. This is being run via a USAID grant through the Association for Water & Rural Development (AWARD). Fortunately the LOROC received positive response from the DG's office in the letter dated 15 July 2016, to: shift LNWs demand to de Hoop Dam in times of stress and implement the EWR in the lower Olifants, without compromising storage in said dam at the start of the water year (April), and use the Decision Support System developed through RESILIM-O to do this (see Appendix C: Letter of Response, DWS).

This document is therefore a technical description for urgent consideration by DWS (System Operations and Planning Departments, plus the Olifants Letaba CMA) of planned activities to operationalise and test the recommended changes. The recommendation is that these activities are initiated as soon as possible particularly given that the seasonal outlook suggests neutral El Nino conditions for the spring of 2016-2017 with average rainfall and - importantly - the persistence of exceptionally high temperatures will result in extremely high evaporation rates. This suggests that the situation is unlikely to improve over the next 6-8 months.

¹ LNW based on a 50 Mm³/a allocation (from Blyde and Flag Boshielo) to LNW, their abstraction would be 1.63 m³/s

² bring on-line ahead of schedule for emergency flow augmentation

According to the 2016/17 operating rules (OLLI Forum July 2016³), Blyde Dam releases should meet demands for domestic (100%; LNW and Maruleng Local Municipality), agriculture (95% assurance) and EWRs (Blyde and contribute to EWR 13 and 16). Using September as an example, the current release is 0.85 m³/s. Based on static releases these requirements are not being met currently even when considering the EWR needs and domestic demands which alone totals 1.38 m³/s (i.e. this does not taken into account agricultural demand).

- EWR: 0.74 m³/s (under drought conditions, absolute minimum based on EWR 12 (September drought RQOs and annual dam allocation of ~30.5 Mm³/a)
- Domestic: 0.64 m³/s (DWS 2016. Draft Sekhukhuene Water Supply System 2016/17 Performance Report

Thus the focus of the recommendation to DWS is that the allocation for the consumptive demand from the Blyde Dam for domestic demand for LNW⁴ be shifted to the de Hoop Dam as an interim, emergency measure.

The Blyde Dam is currently at 53% capacity which is concerning with the seasonal forecast showing late rains.

1.2 Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to document the recommendations for an interim operating rule from de Hoop Dam as a dynamic flow release that takes into account dynamic EWRs and the demand for domestic mining and industry as supplied by LNW (static amount) and evaporative water losses.

We present the approach and methodology used to simulate (a) near-real time EWRs and the releases needed from the Dam to meet these and LNW's demand, and (b) if the Dam would fail under the above recommendations. This report firstly describes the Olifants Catchment in terms of its hydrology, water related infrastructure, water use and current operating rules. The methodology and theoretical basis for real-time compliance monitoring is described in Section 2 and examples are given of model scenarios developed to assist with real-time compliance monitoring in the lower Olifants.

The objectives of the report include the following:

- Provide the technical support to shift some or all of LNWs demand⁵ from the Blyderivierspoort Dam to De Hoop Dam in extreme circumstances, in order to reduce the pressure on the Blyde Dam; This would also provide a buffer for the commercial agricultural sector along the Blyde River for the 2016-2017 growing season⁶, and water supply to Maruleng Local Municipality at a high level of assurance (a relook at the management options was deemed crucial since the Blyde Dam is also required to initiate a portion of the environmental water requirements to the lower Olifants).

³ Development of Operating Rules for water supply and drought management for stand-alone dams and schemes; presented by DWS (Directorate: Water Resource Planning Systems)

⁴ LNW based on a 50 Mm³/a allocation (from Blyde and Flag Boshielo) to LNW, their abstraction would be 1.63 m³/s

⁵ LNW has an annual demand of 51 Mm³/annum from the Blyde system, DWA 2011c

⁶ As of September 2015 voluntary restrictions had already been applied by the Lower Blyde Water Users by reducing irrigation rate from 0.66 l/s/ha to 0.4 l/s/ha (20% restriction). For all practical reasons the pipeline will be non-operational should the dam level reach 25% at which stage no water delivery would be possible through the network and 100% restrictions would effectively apply. The Blyde region is highly dependent on the Agricultural sector with more than 10 000 permanent and seasonal jobs at risk. The economic impact on the region should the dam level reach the 25% critical level would be devastating to the Hoedspruit, Acornhoek, Oaks and surrounding areas.

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- The map displays the Blyde River Catchment area in South Africa, bordered by Mozambique to the east. Key features include:
- Dams:** De-Hoop Dam, Blydepoort Dam, and Phalaborwa Barrage.
 - EWR Sites:** EWR 9, EWR 10, EWR 11, EWR 12, EWR 13, and EWR 16.
 - DWS Flow Gauges:** B4H003, B4H005, B4H025, B7H007, B7H015, B7H026, B7H027, B7H028, B7H029, B7H030, B7H031, B7H032, B7H033, B7H034, B7H035, B7H036, B7H037, B7H038, B7H039, B7H040, B7H041, B7H042, B7H043, B7H044, B7H045, B7H046, B7H047, B7H048, B7H049, B7H050, B7H051, B7H052, B7H053, B7H054, B7H055, B7H056, B7H057, B7H058, B7H059, B7H060, B7H061, B7H062, B7H063, B7H064, B7H065, B7H066, B7H067, B7H068, B7H069, B7H070, B7H071, B7H072, B7H073, B7H074, B7H075, B7H076, B7H077, B7H078, B7H079, B7H080, B7H081, B7H082, B7H083, B7H084, B7H085, B7H086, B7H087, B7H088, B7H089, B7H090, B7H091, B7H092, B7H093, B7H094, B7H095, B7H096, B7H097, B7H098, B7H099, B7H100, B7H101, B7H102, B7H103, B7H104, B7H105, B7H106, B7H107, B7H108, B7H109, B7H110, B7H111, B7H112, B7H113, B7H114, B7H115, B7H116, B7H117, B7H118, B7H119, B7H120, B7H121, B7H122, B7H123, B7H124, B7H125, B7H126, B7H127, B7H128, B7H129, B7H130, B7H131, B7H132, B7H133, B7H134, B7H135, B7H136, B7H137, B7H138, B7H139, B7H140, B7H141, B7H142, B7H143, B7H144, B7H145, B7H146, B7H147, B7H148, B7H149, B7H150, B7H151, B7H152, B7H153, B7H154, B7H155, B7H156, B7H157, B7H158, B7H159, B7H160, B7H161, B7H162, B7H163, B7H164, B7H165, B7H166, B7H167, B7H168, B7H169, B7H170, B7H171, B7H172, B7H173, B7H174, B7H175, B7H176, B7H177, B7H178, B7H179, B7H180, B7H181, B7H182, B7H183, B7H184, B7H185, B7H186, B7H187, B7H188, B7H189, B7H190, B7H191, B7H192, B7H193, B7H194, B7H195, B7H196, B7H197, B7H198, B7H199, B7H200, B7H201, B7H202, B7H203, B7H204, B7H205, B7H206, B7H207, B7H208, B7H209, B7H210, B7H211, B7H212, B7H213, B7H214, B7H215, B7H216, B7H217, B7H218, B7H219, B7H220, B7H221, B7H222, B7H223, B7H224, B7H225, B7H226, B7H227, B7H228, B7H229, B7H230, B7H231, B7H232, B7H233, B7H234, B7H235, B7H236, B7H237, B7H238, B7H239, B7H240, B7H241, B7H242, B7H243, B7H244, B7H245, B7H246, B7H247, B7H248, B7H249, B7H250, B7H251, B7H252, B7H253, B7H254, B7H255, B7H256, B7H257, B7H258, B7H259, B7H260, B7H261, B7H262, B7H263, B7H264, B7H265, B7H266, B7H267, B7H268, B7H269, B7H270, B7H271, B7H272, B7H273, B7H274, B7H275, B7H276, B7H277, B7H278, B7H279, B7H280, B7H281, B7H282, B7H283, B7H284, B7H285, B7H286, B7H287, B7H288, B7H289, B7H290, B7H291, B7H292, B7H293, B7H294, B7H295, B7H296, B7H297, B7H298, B7H299, B7H300, B7H301, B7H302, B7H303, B7H304, B7H305, B7H306, B7H307, B7H308, B7H309, B7H310, B7H311, B7H312, B7H313, B7H314, B7H315, B7H316, B7H317, B7H318, B7H319, B7H320, B7H321, B7H322, B7H323, B7H324, B7H325, B7H326, B7H327, B7H328, B7H329, B7H330, B7H331, B7H332, B7H333, B7H334, B7H335, B7H336, B7H337, B7H338, B7H339, B7H340, B7H341, B7H342, B7H343, B7H344, B7H345, B7H346, B7H347, B7H348, B7H349, B7H350, B7H351, B7H352, B7H353, B7H354, B7H355, B7H356, B7H357, B7H358, B7H359, B7H360, B7H361, B7H362, B7H363, B7H364, B7H365, B7H366, B7H367, B7H368, B7H369, B7H370, B7H371, B7H372, B7H373, B7H374, B7H375, B7H376, B7H377, B7H378, B7H379, B7H380, B7H381, B7H382, B7H383, B7H384, B7H385, B7H386, B7H387, B7H388, B7H389, B7H390, B7H391, B7H392, B7H393, B7H394, B7H395, B7H396, B7H397, B7H398, B7H399, B7H400, B7H401, B7H402, B7H403, B7H404, B7H405, B7H406, B7H407, B7H408, B7H409, B7H410, B7H411, B7H412, B7H413, B7H414, B7H415, B7H416, B7H417, B7H418, B7H419, B7H420, B7H421, B7H422, B7H423, B7H424, B7H425, B7H426, B7H427, B7H428, B7H429, B7H430, B7H431, B7H432, B7H433, B7H434, B7H435, B7H436, B7H437, B7H438, B7H439, B7H440, B7H441, B7H442, B7H443, B7H444, B7H445, B7H446, B7H447, B7H448, B7H449, B7H450, B7H451, B7H452, B7H453, B7H454, B7H455, B7H456, B7H457, B7H458, B7H459, B7H460, B7H461, B7H462, B7H463, B7H464, B7H465, B7H466, B7H467, B7H468, B7H469, B7H470, B7H471, B7H472, B7H473, B7H474, B7H475, B7H476, B7H477, B7H478, B7H479, B7H480, B7H481, B7H482, B7H483, B7H484, B7H485, B7H486, B7H487, B7H488, B7H489, B7H490, B7H491, B7H492, B7H493, B7H494, B7H495, B7H496, B7H497, B7H498, B7H499, B7H500, B7H501, B7H502, B7H503, B7H504, B7H505, B7H506, B7H507, B7H508, B7H509, B7H510, B7H511, B7H512, B7H513, B7H514, B7H515, B7H516, B7H517, B7H518, B7H519, B7H520, B7H521, B7H522, B7H523, B7H524, B7H525, B7H526, B7H527, B7H528, B7H529, B7H530, B7H531, B7H532, B7H533, B7H534, B7H535, B7H536, B7H537, B7H538, B7H539, B7H540, B7H541, B7H542, B7H543, B7H544, B7H545, B7H546, B7H547, B7H548, B7H549, B7H550, B7H551, B7H552, B7H553, B7H554, B7H555, B7H556, B7H557, B7H558, B7H559, B7H560, B7H561, B7H562, B7H563, B7H564, B7H565, B7H566, B7H567, B7H568, B7H569, B7H570, B7H571, B7H572, B7H57

2. Determination of De-Hoop dam releases needed to meet target flows downstream

2.1 Overview of approach

This section describes the methodology used to determine the dynamic operating rule and to simulate the downstream flows within the catchment. To this end, the following approach was used for a 200 km length of river along the Steelpoort and Olifants River up to EWR 16. This includes the EWR sites that are near gauge stations (EWR 9, 11, 13 and 16).

- Acquire WR2012 hydrological data
- Calculate near-real time EWRs
 - Set-up systems model
 - Back calculate water use using WReMP based on near-real time inputs of flows to get naturalised flows
 - Using naturalised flows calculate EWR from the RQO flow duration curve
- Calculate target flows based on
 - flow requirement: Determined through addition of domestic, mining and industrial demands to the EWRs plus water losses over 200km stretch
 - Target flow (early warning system) - target flow determined from the above plus 25% flow

Following an overview of the hydrology, these steps are described below.

2.2 Hydrology

The hydrological modelling of the entire Olifants River Basin was based on the latest available hydrological data, using the WR2012. The water use within the Catchment is constantly changing and while the Olifants Water Availability Assessment (OWAAS, DWA 2010) was used in the initial model setup, this information was updated as part of the Olifants Reconciliation Strategy (DWA, 2011a). This latter study is now in a second phase and water use has again been updated. The latest water use data set was obtained from this study in 2015 (Seago, 2015). A summary of the hydrology in terms of natural and present day flow as well as estimated water requirements is shown in Table 2.1.

Table 2. 1: Summary of hydrology and water use cumulative at each EWR site (units are million m³/annum) based on WR2012 data

EWR Site	Natural flow	Present Day Flow	Water requirements				
			Urban	Irrigation	Industrial	Mining	Forestry
1	221.2	98.7	34.0	39.8	8.0	7.8	1.5
5	643.6	257.8	73.5	227.9	9.2	9.8	8.1
6	76.1	13.3	14.0	22.6	0.0	0.5	0.7
9	137.9	113.1	1.5	4.8	0.0	4.1	2.4
11	1414.6	692.4	107.5	403.6	9.2	39.9	14.8
16	2029.1	934.2	134.8	608.5	9.2	29.0	5.9

2.3 Calculating the near-real time EWRS

2.3.1 Methodology

In line with accepted practice in South Africa, the ecological Reserve has been expressed as a function of the natural flow. This approach does however pose difficulties in estimating the ecological requirement at any point in time since it requires an estimate of the natural flow. There are three methods for estimating natural flow in real-time:

- Extrapolation from a gauge which is measuring flow in a catchment which is considered to be natural;
- The use of a rainfall/runoff model; and
- Estimating natural flow based on observed flow and a knowledge of water use in the catchment, referred to as real-time naturalisation.

The method used for compliance monitoring of the Olifants River Basin is that of real-time naturalisation which is described in Pollard et al, (2011). The compliance monitoring of flow model is based on the Water Resources Modelling Platform (WReMP) setup of the Olifants River Basin (Appendix A). This model setup was developed as part of an earlier phase of the RESILIM-O program in order to evaluate the impact of climate change in the Olifants River catchment. In order to adapt this model for compliance monitoring it was necessary to identify infrastructure and water use upstream of each EWR site. Generic input files have been used for this purpose so that the model user can add new monitoring sites in future if necessary.

There are two models that are a part of the DSS incorporated into WReMP which are to be used in the proposed methodology for emergency augmentation in the lower Olifants, namely:

- monthly catchment model
- daily De-Hoop release model

2.3.2 Selection of sites at which to monitor flow compliance

The process of Real-time naturalisation simply entails adding back water use in the catchment to the observed flow. To apply this concept successfully requires a reliable real-time flow gauge and a good knowledge of water use upstream of the gauge. These criteria are largely met in the Olifants River Basin although real time gauges are not always located at or near EWR sites. Hence it is not possible to monitor

flow and compliance at all EWR sites. Table 2.2 indicates the selected sites and the closest flow gauge which will be used for monitoring. While there is currently no real-time capability at the EWR 11 site it is understood that the AWARD data loggers and flow probes are to be installed shortly.

The EWRs were determined in 2002 (DWA, 2001) but updated as part of the Olifants Reconciliation Strategy (DWA, 2011). The update entailed estimating the EWR without freshet releases since the outlet of existing dams are too small to release the required freshets. The revised EWRs were accepted during the Classification of the Water Resources (DWS, 2011b) and the gazetted numerical RQOs (2016) are used in this study. The class of the EWR and the EWR as a percentage of the natural flow is indicated in Table 2.3. The numerical representation of the EWRs as duration curves are attached as Appendix B.

Table 2. 2 EWR sites and related real-time gauges

EWR Site	Real time Gauge	Description	Quaternary catchment	River	Long	Lat
1	B1H010	Olifants River @ Witbank	B11J	Olifants	29.304	-25.892
5	B3H017	Olifants River @ Loskop	B32C	Olifants	29.358	-25.417
6	B3H020	Elands River @ Rhenosterkop	B31G	Elands	28.921	-25.101
9	B4H023	De Hoop Dam Releases	B41H	Steelpoort	29.957	-24.954
10	B4H025	Taung	B41K	Steelpoort	30.400	-24.483
11	B7H009	Finale (Liverpool)	B71H	Olifants	30.742	-24.331
13	B7H015	Mamba	B73C	Olifants	31.243	-24.066
16	B7H026	Balule	B73H	Olifants	31.721	-24.057

Table 2. 3: Ecological water requirements based on the gazetted RQOs (March 2016)

EWR Site	Category	Mean requirement	
		million m ³ /annum under Normal Conditions	million m ³ /annum under Drought Conditions
1	D	8.69	7.72
5	C	56.97	31.41
6	D	3.75	3.78
9	D	13.41	12.96
10	D	30.13	30.13
11	D	155.33	82.71
13	C	210.22	110.73
16	C	205.44	92.24

2.3.3 Storage of water in dams

A significant factor affecting river flow is the impoundment of water in dams. As described in the real-time naturalisation methodology (Pollard, et al, 2011), water that would have contributed to natural flow is stored in impoundments and hence this stored water needs to be added to the observed flow as part of the real-time naturalisation process. Since it is not possible to monitor all the dams in the catchment, only the larger dams with real-time or near real-time storage data have been included in the naturalisation process. These dams are listed in Table 2.4.

Table 2. 4 Significant Dams in the Olifants River catchment

Dam name	Full supply capacity (million m ³)	Catchment	Flow at EWR sites influenced by dam	Storage on 15 August 2016 (% of FSC)	Storage on 1 Sept 2016 (% of FSC)
Bronkhorstspuit	57.0	B20C	5, 11, 16	68.9	67.1
Witbank	104.1	B12C	1, 5, 11, 16	51.2	49.6
Middelburg	48.1	B11G	5, 11, 16	43.5	40.9
Loskop	361.6	B32A	5, 11, 16	54.8	52.5
Rust de Winter	28.2	B31C	6, 11, 16	51.2	50.1
Mkombo	204.6	B31F	6, 11, 16	20.5	19.5
Flag Boshielo	185.2	B51B	11, 16	25.0	22.8
De Hoop	348.7	B41E	9, 11, 16	86.4	85.4
Buffelspoort	5.3	B42F	11, 16	34.3	30.8
Origstad	13.5	B60E	16	5.1	4.4
Blyderivierpoort	54.4	B60D	16	59.6	54.4
Klaserie	5.7	B73A	16	40.9	36.1

2.3.4 Examples of EWR compliance monitoring

The EWR compliance model has been tested using near real-time flows and are presented in the table below (Table 2.5) as an example of a typical result. This does not however constitute comprehensive testing of the model which will need to be carried out over a longer period of time.

In addition to the dam storage information the following near real-time flows are needed to carry out the naturalisation calculation every week.

Table 2. 5: Observed flows observed at real-time gauges associated with an EWR site

EWR Site	Real time gauge	Flow on 15 August 2016 (m ³ /s)	Flow on 1 Sept 2016 (m ³ /s)
1	B1H010	0.01	0.02
5	B3H017	1.17	1.17
6	B3H020	0.68	0.66
9	B4H023	2.08	2.09
10	B4H025		1.95
11	B7H009	4.18*	Reading unreliable
13	B7H015	1.76	1.76
16	B7H026		0.52

* Note that gauge B7H009 is not yet fitted with telemetry so flow was estimated from the downstream gauge.

Furthermore, scaling factors are applied to bring EWR site requirements in line with the gauged hydrology for example: EWR 9 (Steelpoort)

B4H023 catchment area = 2 388 km²
 EWR9 catchment area = 3 050 km²
 Scaling factor = 3 050/2 388
 = 1.277

As noted, water use/ demand is added to the EWR to determine a flow requirement. The monthly water demand for key EWR sites is shown in Table 2.6.

Table 2. 6: Consumptive bulk water demand upstream of Lower Olifants EWR sites

Month	Requirement (million m ³) above EWR 9	Requirement (million m ³) above EWR 10	Requirement (million m ³) above EWR 11	Requirement (million m ³) above EWR 13
October	0.84	1.11	45.50	66.03
November	0.79	1.03	41.39	59.79
January	0.86	1.15	47.55	69.15
February	0.98	1.35	57.41	84.12
March	1.18	1.72	75.47	111.57
April	0.91	1.24	51.66	75.39
May	0.87	1.17	48.37	70.40
June	0.66	0.81	30.31	42.95
July	0.70	0.86	33.18	47.32
August	0.94	1.29	54.12	79.13
September	0.86	1.15	47.55	69.15
Total	10.36	13.88	572.25	832.31

2.4 Determination of near-real time target flows for the drought period

2.4.1 Principles for shifting industrial and urban allocation for LNW

The principles held with the presented scenario is to create a temporary shift of LNWs demand from Blyderivierspoort Dam to De Hoop Dam during emergency situations. Furthermore, the scenario assumes that the EWR is implemented for the Steelpoort River from De Hoop⁷ whilst the EWR for the Olifants River below the Blyde River confluence is maintained by baseflow releases from Blyderivierspoort Dam. According to DWA (2011), the entire Lepelle water demand is being met not just by the Blyde alone, but also with a good proportion from the Olifants River as well through incremental catchment runoff. Therefore, in the current emergency situation we suggest shifting Lepelle's demand to De-Hoop dam as incremental runoff in the lower Olifants main stem becomes insufficient as was the case during early 2016.

2.4.2 General Principles

Releases from the De-Hoop Dam should coincide with an early warning system, which signifies an 'emergency situation'. The trigger for this are based on near-real time flows at the Oxford Weir (B7H007). This is the gauge that LNW uses to monitor inflows to the Phalaborwa barrage. This will use the following rule which gives the target flow in m³/s at B7H007 to meet the requirements at Mamba weir (B7H015) in the KNP:

$$\text{B7H007 Target flow} = \text{LNW Requirement}^8 + \text{EWR13 Requirement} + 10\% \text{ loss}^9$$

Therefore, a threshold is required to trigger a management action based on Observed flow at target gauge B7H007, when:

$$\text{B7H007 Observed flow} < (\text{B7H007 Target flow} * 1.25)$$

The above scenario uses 25% as an early warning excess to account for the lag time between a pulse release from the de Hoop Dam and observation at the target gauge (B7H007). There are no appropriate gauges in the system currently therefore we use a 5-7 day lag as learnt from experiences in the Crocodile River Catchment over a transfer distance of approximately 200 kms. This can be adapted in the future

⁷ Noting that the full EWR from De Hoop dam for the lower Olifants will only be implemented on completion of the ORWRDP

⁸ Daily requirement expressed as constant of the instantaneous flow

⁹ DWA 2011 operating rules reassessed losses below the Blydepoort dam towards the barrage at 6.8%, we use a conservative estimate of 10 (predominantly quoted in literature at 30%)

after observation of gauges (B4H025, B7H007 and the soon to be completed B7H009), and will be one of the immediate required calibration exercises for the proposed emergency releases.

Once this threshold flow is triggered this would invoke a management action by LNW. With the response to run the WReMP De Hoop daily model and request DWS Infrastructure branch initiate the required release from de Hoop Dam.

2.4.3 Scenario of early warning system against stochastic hydrology

The results of the compliance analysis carried out on 15 August 2016 is given in Table 2.7. Although the following flows have been determined for this drought period, we suggest that this system can be used until De Hoop Dam integrated operating rules have been developed.

Table 2. 7: EWR requirements under scenarios

EWR Site	Observed flow on 15 August 2016 (m ³ /s)	Estimated natural flow (m ³ /s)	Estimated ecological water requirement (m ³ /s)
1	0.01	2.29	0.22
5	1.17	5.31	1.32
6	0.68	2.63	0.14
9	2.08	2.89	1.28
11	4.18*	12.33	5.10
16	1.76	15.56	5.38

3. Quantifying recommended releases from De Hoop Dam

3.1 Current scenario

The following scenario demonstrates when a trigger is initiated, with a lag from De-Hoop to Oxford (B7H007) of 5-7 days (calculated on 1 m³/s over 150-200Km) and made using present catchment conditions (1 September 2016). It is recognised that it will not be possible to meet the full EWR at all sites in the lower Olifants River from the De Hoop Dam. As an interim measure the releases will be made to meet minimum EWR at B7H026. These minimum flows are given in Table 3.1. These flows can also be considered to be the minimum cross-border flows into Mozambique.

Table 3. 1: Minimum flows at B7H026

Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
2.02	2.84	3.14	4.19	5.03	4.36	3.35	2.94	2.53	2.23	2.12	2.02

There are two solutions to deal with the lag time, that is, the time required for flow released from the De Hoop Dam to reach the Phalaborwa Barrage. Either the drop in flow must be anticipated and released five days early, or the storage on the Phalaborwa Barrage must be used as an additional trigger and flow released when there is still at least 7 days storage remaining for LNW¹⁰. The latter method is preferred since this will obviate unnecessary releases.

Table 3. 2: Recommended release as of the 5th of September 2016

Date	5-Sep-16	
EWR 16	Represented by flow at Gauge B7H026	
Flow	0.45	m3/s
Minimum EWR for August	1.67	m3/s
Additional Flow Required	1.22	m3/s
Lepelle Water Abstraction from the Phalaborwa Barrage		
Inflow	Represented by the flow at Gauge B7H007	
Flow	3.43	m3/s
Abstraction	1.32 ¹¹	m3/s
Additional Flow Required	0	m3/s
De Hoop Dam		
Outflow	Represented by the flow at Gauge B4H023	
Flow	2.08	m3/s
Additional flow required plus 10% losses	1.342	m3/s
Total release now required from De Hoop	3.422	

3.2 Sustainability for De Hoop Water Resources

An analysis is required in order to ascertain how the De Hoop Dam will operate if water is released from the dam to support Lepelle Northern Water. A so-called short term analysis has been carried out using 500 stochastic hydrology sequences. This gives a good indication of the probability of the De Hoop Dam being in a particular state of storage as time progresses.

The 1 in 50 year yield of the De Hoop Dam is estimated to be 66 Mm³/a. Currently there is no supply to other users from the dam since the pipelines are still under construction. A release of about 2 m³/s is presently being made from the dam. It is assumed that this release is for the EWR but it is not clear how this flow rate was determined. The DSS that has been set up by AWARD as part of the RESILIM-O project can determine the required release on a day to day basis. The current abstraction by LNW is about 1.32 m³/s (or 41.6 Mm³/a) which is well within the yield of the De Hoop Dam. Figure 3.1 shows the performances of the De Hoop Dam given the following scenario:

¹⁰ Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of LNW storage in the barrage is held within the first 1.5kms of backwater from the barrage (Clean Stream, 2015), this represents approx. 800 000 m³, or approximately 7 days supply at present demand.

¹¹ LNW is presently licensed at 64 Mm³/annum, with use due drop in industrial demand to 43 Mm³/annum. Average daily demand for 2015-16 financial year equates to 114 Ml/day.

- Supplement supply to LNW, including an assumed 10% loss of the releases from The De Hoop Dam
- Release water from the De Hoop Dam to meet the EWR at site 9 and 10.

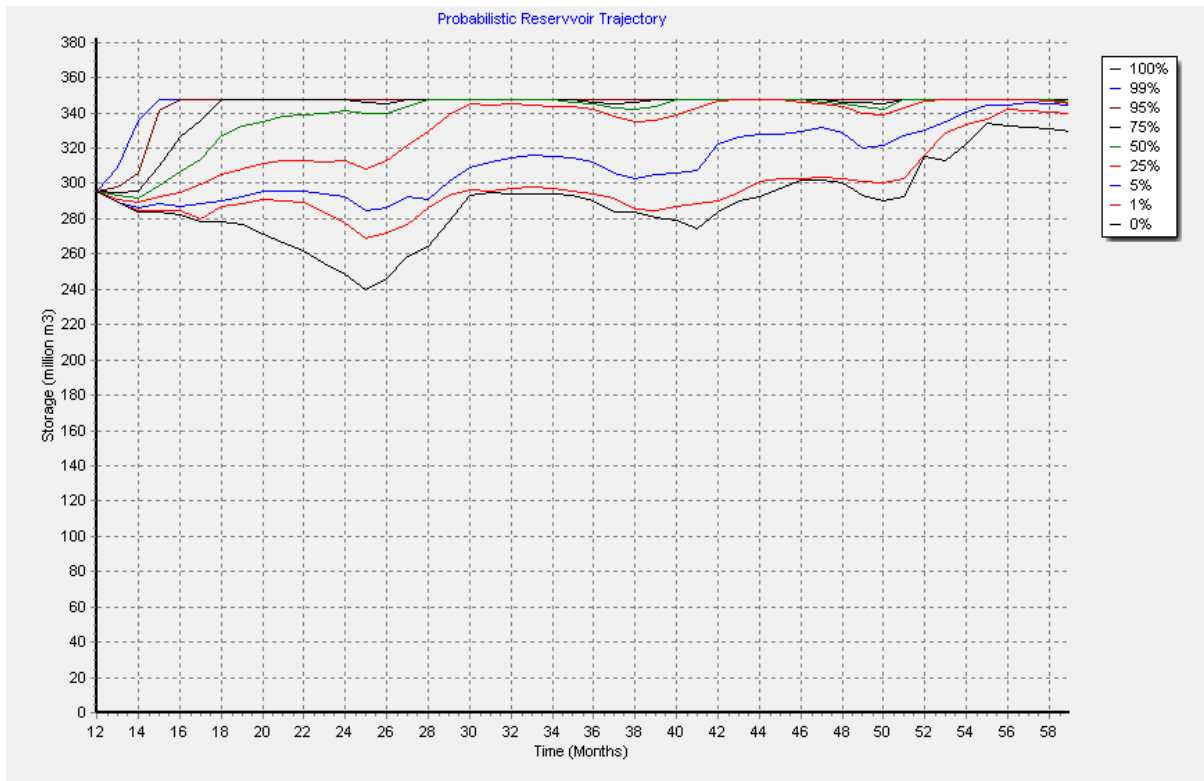


Figure 3. 1: Scenario 1: Performance of De Hoop Dam with support to Lepelle Northern Water

As a second scenario, the extent to which De Hoop Dam can meet all the EWRs along the lower Olifants River was modelled. This scenario assumes supplementary releases for LNW as well as EWR sites 9,10,11,13 and 16.

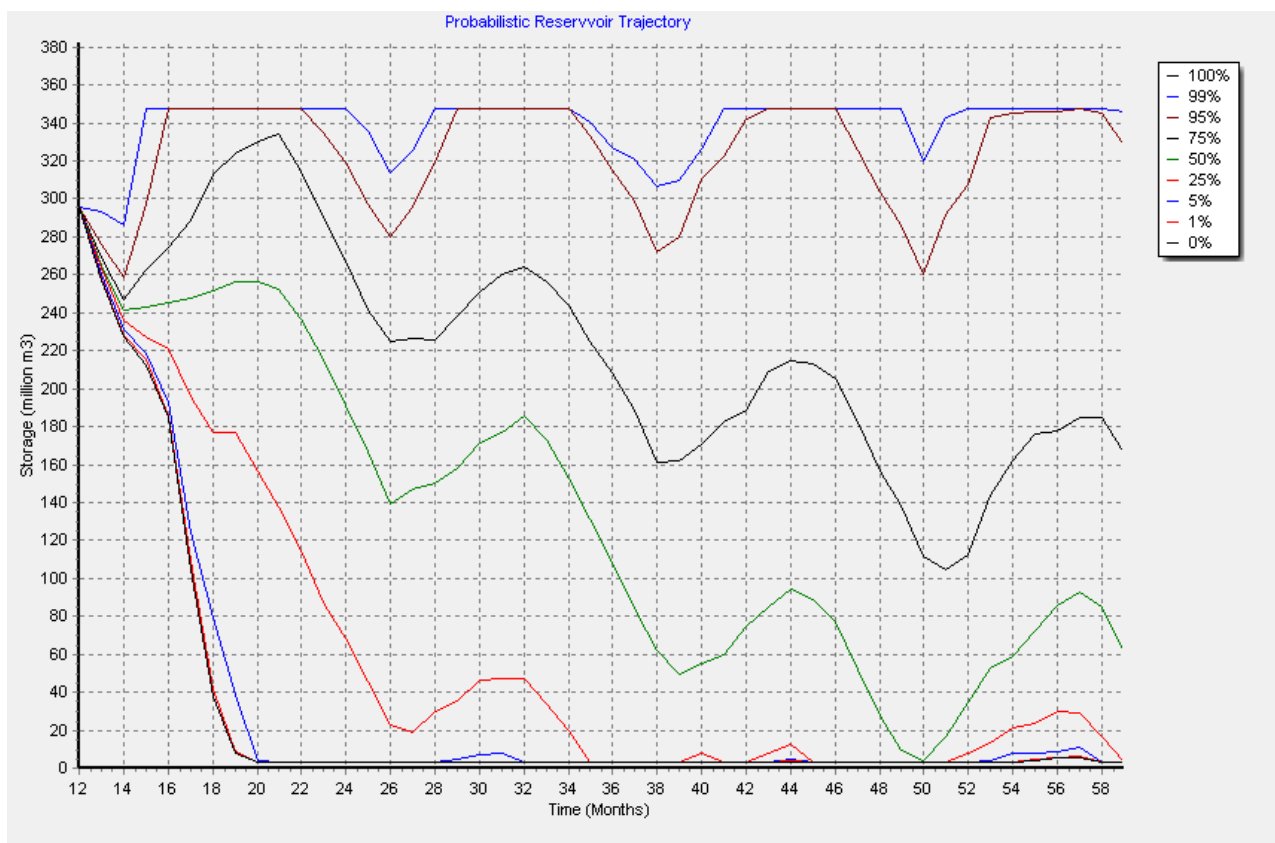


Figure 3. 2: Scenario 2: Release from De Hoop to support LNW and all the EWRs on the lower Olifants River

It can be concluded that the De Hoop Dam can be used to support the water requirements of LNW as a temporary measure without imposing an undue risk on the mines and rural communities that will soon be supplied from this source. However, the De Hoop Dam cannot also meet all the EWR in the lower Olifants and an integrated solution to this is required (Figure 3.2). Support from the Blyderivier Dam and the Loskop Dam will most probably also be required.

4. Plan of Action

In order to initiate successful implementation of the proposed DSS the following actions will be required in a phased approach:

1. Initial briefing session with the following people (emergency situation during drought)
 - a. Celiwe Ntuli (NtuliC@dws.gov.za) WRPS
 - b. Johann van Aswegen (vanAswegenJ@dws.gov.za) OCMA
 - c. Dr Beason Mwaka (mwakab@dws.gov.za) WRPS
 - d. Tendani Nditwani (nditwani@dws.gov.za) NWRP
 - e. Levy Modjadibodu (levym@lepelle.co.za) LNW
 - f. Deon Joubert (joubertd@dws.gov.za) DWS Hydrology
 - g. Kobus Pretorius (pretoriusk@dws.gov.za) DWS Infrastructure Branch
 - h. Contact Olifants and Blyde river farmers (through Olifants proto CMA staff)

2. Priority to maintain B7H007 at Oxford on telemetric system (and utilise double up stations installed by RESILIM-O at B7H009, B7H007, B7H015, B7H026) - utilise manual readings of gauges where necessary (note LNW has photographic sensor of stage height at B7H007)
3. Document decisions - such as the KNP river management log (appendix e) which includes results of WReMP model runs, acknowledged releases (duration and volume by DWS Infrastructure Branch), hydrological response received (LNW & KNP)
4. Follow-up DSS technical training to include the following personnel: DWS System Operations (Head Office); Olifants-Letaba CMA River Operations Manager; DWS Infrastructure Branch (MP and LP); Lepelle Northern Water Phalaborwa Barrage Scheme Manager; Kruger National Park; Water User Associations; Maruleng municipality.
5. Concurrently with above will be the need to ensure Water User Associations provide validated water use and ensure users are compliant during release periods

5. Conclusion

In conclusion under the current situation: environmental flows will not be met downstream, the Blyde agricultural sector is at risk as well as the Maruleng Municipality water supply. Therefore, we recommend that the LNW demand be shifted to the De-Hoop dam based on what was shown in this report. The De-Hoop dam simulations have shown that shifting the water use can be sustained by the De-Hoop dam. We also suggest that this approach be used until the time comes that the integrated operating rules for the De-Hoop dam have been developed.

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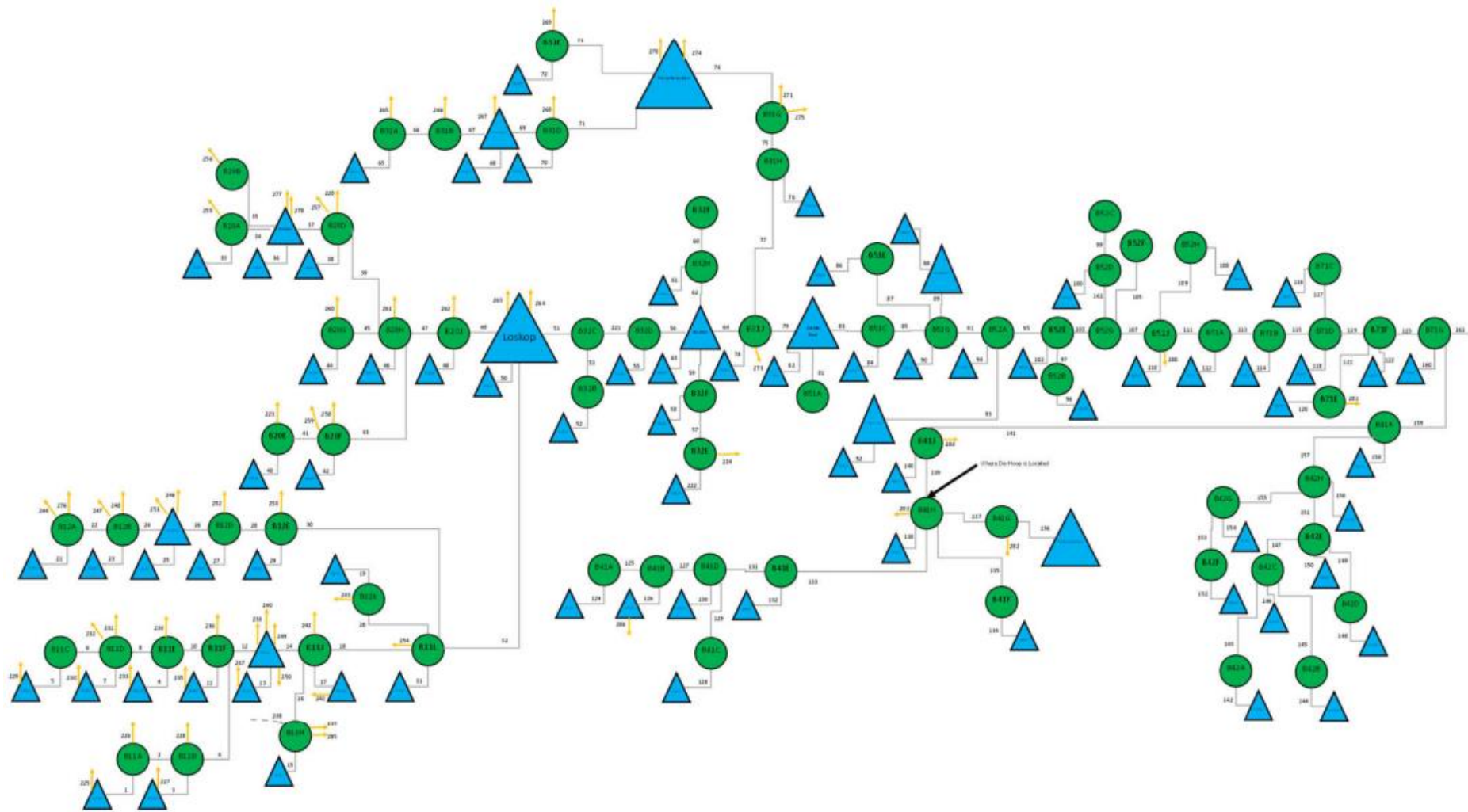
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APPENDIX A: WReMP Systems Diagram for Olifants Catchment



APPENDIX B: ecological water requirements at selected sites in flow duration format

From DWA: RESOURCE QUALITY OBJECTIVES AND NUMERICAL LIMITS REPORT (Oct 2014)
REPORT NO.: RDM/WMA04/00/CON/RQO/0613 cross referenced against Gazetted Management Classes for the Olifants Water Management Area (Gazette No 39943, 22 April 2016)

EWR 1

Olifants River

IUA 1

RU 11

Desktop Version 2, Printed on 9/2/2014
Summary of IFR rule curves for : Olifants_1 Generic Name
Determination based on site specific parameters from SPATSIM database.
Regional Type : Olifants ERC = D

Data are given in m³/s mean monthly flow

Month	% Points	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	99%
Oct	0.588	0.584	0.576	0.557	0.524	0.468	0.389	0.298	0.221	0.185	
Nov	1.648	1.638	1.616	1.574	1.494	1.355	1.134	0.826	0.484	0.268	
Dec	2.594	2.577	2.541	2.470	2.337	2.104	1.734	1.220	0.647	0.286	
Jan	4.286	3.831	3.441	3.096	2.766	2.216	1.904	1.470	0.986	0.682	
Feb	1.807	1.710	1.623	1.539	1.448	1.293	1.163	0.982	0.781	0.654	
Mar	2.148	1.975	1.822	1.678	1.528	1.276	1.084	0.818	0.521	0.269	
Apr	0.980	0.973	0.957	0.923	0.860	0.756	0.610	0.442	0.298	0.228	
May	0.461	0.458	0.451	0.438	0.413	0.373	0.315	0.249	0.192	0.166	
Jun	0.317	0.315	0.311	0.302	0.287	0.261	0.224	0.181	0.145	0.129	
Jul	0.240	0.239	0.237	0.232	0.223	0.208	0.187	0.162	0.141	0.131	
Aug	0.191	0.190	0.189	0.185	0.179	0.168	0.153	0.136	0.121	0.114	
Sep	0.168	0.167	0.165	0.161	0.153	0.140	0.122	0.100	0.082	0.074	

Reserve flows without High Flows

Oct	0.278	0.277	0.274	0.269	0.259	0.243	0.220	0.194	0.172	0.161	
Nov	0.541	0.538	0.533	0.522	0.502	0.466	0.409	0.330	0.243	0.187	
Dec	0.716	0.712	0.703	0.686	0.653	0.596	0.505	0.379	0.238	0.149	
Jan	0.892	0.889	0.883	0.871	0.848	0.808	0.745	0.657	0.559	0.497	
Feb	1.105	1.102	1.094	1.079	1.051	1.001	0.923	0.814	0.693	0.616	
Mar	0.880	0.876	0.866	0.847	0.812	0.750	0.651	0.514	0.361	0.265	
Apr	0.669	0.665	0.655	0.634	0.595	0.531	0.441	0.337	0.249	0.207	
May	0.461	0.458	0.451	0.438	0.413	0.373	0.315	0.249	0.192	0.166	
Jun	0.317	0.315	0.311	0.302	0.287	0.261	0.224	0.181	0.145	0.129	
Jul	0.240	0.239	0.237	0.232	0.223	0.208	0.187	0.162	0.141	0.131	
Aug	0.191	0.190	0.189	0.185	0.179	0.168	0.153	0.136	0.121	0.114	
Sep	0.168	0.167	0.165	0.161	0.153	0.140	0.122	0.100	0.082	0.074	

Natural Duration curves

Oct	8.673	2.546	1.665	1.060	0.877	0.650	0.500	0.392	0.295	0.187	
Nov	21.177	14.267	9.236	7.373	5.189	3.468	2.126	1.215	0.525	0.305	
Dec	27.356	21.871	14.068	12.063	7.687	5.313	3.293	2.352	1.139	0.392	
Jan	36.178	23.738	15.476	10.902	8.419	6.635	3.610	2.528	1.684	0.918	
Feb	33.767	18.155	13.079	7.841	5.076	3.952	3.146	2.079	1.224	0.711	
Mar	30.358	9.827	6.291	5.100	3.648	2.729	1.781	1.135	0.687	0.269	
Apr	12.369	6.107	4.109	2.840	2.068	1.682	1.211	0.880	0.467	0.228	
May	6.033	3.510	2.065	1.520	1.072	0.911	0.709	0.575	0.396	0.190	
Jun	2.928	1.674	1.292	1.061	0.756	0.629	0.579	0.471	0.309	0.177	
Jul	1.885	1.176	0.956	0.777	0.638	0.571	0.493	0.444	0.336	0.205	
Aug	1.150	0.933	0.698	0.594	0.549	0.463	0.429	0.392	0.302	0.190	
Sep	1.111	0.752	0.583	0.529	0.490	0.409	0.367	0.313	0.216	0.147	

EWR 5

Olifants River

IUA 3

RU 40

Desktop Version 2, Printed on 9/2/2014

Summary of IFR rule curves for : Olifants_5 Generic Name

Determination based on site specific parameters from SPATSIM database.

Regional Type : Olifants ERC = C

Data are given in m³/s mean monthly flow

	% Points										
Month	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	99%	
Oct	2.374	2.358	2.322	2.248	2.109	1.880	1.558	1.186	0.868	0.720	
Nov	5.558	5.526	5.458	5.325	5.076	4.640	3.947	2.985	1.912	1.237	
Dec	8.078	8.030	7.929	7.729	7.356	6.704	5.666	4.225	2.619	1.608	
Jan	16.296	14.568	13.082	11.758	10.476	8.335	7.059	5.287	3.311	2.068	
Feb	7.205	6.796	6.425	6.058	5.645	4.944	4.315	3.441	2.467	1.854	
Mar	9.001	8.280	7.648	7.060	6.453	5.433	4.685	3.647	2.490	1.761	
Apr	4.290	4.261	4.196	4.060	3.807	3.391	2.803	2.126	1.547	1.278	
May	2.496	2.482	2.450	2.384	2.261	2.059	1.773	1.445	1.163	1.033	
Jun	1.996	1.985	1.960	1.907	1.810	1.650	1.424	1.163	0.941	0.837	
Jul	1.670	1.661	1.640	1.597	1.516	1.383	1.195	0.978	0.793	0.707	
Aug	1.367	1.360	1.343	1.308	1.242	1.134	0.982	0.807	0.657	0.587	
Sep	1.187	1.180	1.166	1.136	1.079	0.987	0.856	0.706	0.577	0.518	
Reserve flows without High Flows											
Oct	1.504	1.496	1.477	1.438	1.366	1.246	1.078	0.884	0.718	0.641	
Nov	2.347	2.336	2.315	2.271	2.191	2.050	1.826	1.515	1.168	0.949	
Dec	2.846	2.833	2.807	2.754	2.655	2.483	2.210	1.830	1.406	1.139	
Jan	3.446	3.431	3.399	3.335	3.215	3.005	2.672	2.210	1.694	1.370	
Feb	4.281	4.261	4.221	4.141	3.992	3.731	3.317	2.741	2.099	1.695	
Mar	3.719	3.702	3.667	3.598	3.468	3.242	2.882	2.382	1.825	1.474	
Apr	3.146	3.127	3.084	2.996	2.830	2.557	2.172	1.729	1.350	1.174	
May	2.496	2.482	2.450	2.384	2.261	2.059	1.773	1.445	1.163	1.033	
Jun	1.996	1.985	1.960	1.907	1.810	1.650	1.424	1.163	0.941	0.837	
Jul	1.670	1.661	1.640	1.597	1.516	1.383	1.195	0.978	0.793	0.707	
Aug	1.367	1.360	1.343	1.308	1.242	1.134	0.982	0.807	0.657	0.587	
Sep	1.187	1.180	1.166	1.136	1.079	0.987	0.856	0.706	0.577	0.518	
Natural Duration curves											
Oct	18.134	9.614	6.425	5.025	3.995	3.230	2.666	2.397	1.594	1.187	
Nov	55.475	39.954	26.258	21.146	15.733	11.481	7.851	5.799	2.867	2.002	
Dec	76.538	51.359	38.471	34.076	25.616	17.380	11.630	8.023	5.238	2.733	
Jan	101.747	62.862	39.546	30.645	22.189	17.103	13.852	10.230	7.463	4.342	
Feb	83.201	48.636	33.296	23.752	15.960	13.000	11.442	9.082	7.031	4.233	
Mar	74.843	42.880	23.055	18.164	14.322	10.723	8.658	6.575	4.376	2.057	
Apr	31.254	23.927	14.834	12.137	10.779	8.603	6.539	4.938	3.835	1.917	
May	19.971	13.030	9.954	7.575	6.037	5.570	4.465	3.476	2.584	1.553	
Jun	12.353	9.209	6.813	5.752	4.807	4.113	3.526	2.596	2.157	1.300	
Jul	10.122	7.206	5.335	4.981	4.002	3.741	2.856	2.464	1.983	1.228	
Aug	6.209	5.570	4.465	3.969	3.274	2.759	2.382	2.102	1.781	1.561	
Sep	6.933	4.390	3.704	3.094	2.704	2.230	1.983	1.671	1.451	1.073	

EWR 6

Elands River

IUA 4

RU 46

•	Desktop Version 2, Printed on 9/2/2014
•	Summary of IFR rule curves for : Olifants_6 Generic Name
•	Determination based on site specific parameters from SPATSIM database.
•	Regional Type : Olifants ERC = D
•	
•	Data are given in m ³ /s mean monthly flow
•	
•	% Points
•	Month 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 99%
•	Oct 0.233 0.232 0.229 0.222 0.210 0.189 0.160 0.126 0.098 0.084
•	Nov 0.827 0.822 0.811 0.791 0.752 0.684 0.577 0.427 0.261 0.156
•	Dec 1.000 0.993 0.981 0.956 0.909 0.827 0.697 0.516 0.314 0.187
•	Jan 2.200 1.952 1.739 1.552 1.374 1.078 0.915 0.687 0.434 0.275
•	Feb 0.779 0.726 0.679 0.635 0.589 0.511 0.451 0.369 0.277 0.219
•	Mar 1.050 0.955 0.874 0.800 0.726 0.604 0.525 0.415 0.292 0.215
•	Apr 0.502 0.499 0.491 0.475 0.446 0.398 0.330 0.252 0.185 0.154
•	May 0.210 0.209 0.207 0.203 0.195 0.182 0.163 0.141 0.123 0.114
•	Jun 0.177 0.176 0.174 0.171 0.164 0.153 0.137 0.119 0.103 0.096
•	Jul 0.156 0.156 0.154 0.151 0.145 0.135 0.121 0.105 0.091 0.085
•	Aug 0.142 0.141 0.140 0.137 0.131 0.122 0.110 0.095 0.083 0.077
•	Sep 0.130 0.129 0.128 0.125 0.120 0.112 0.101 0.087 0.076 0.070
•	
•	Reserve flows without High Flows
•	Oct 0.143 0.142 0.141 0.138 0.133 0.124 0.111 0.096 0.083 0.078
•	Nov 0.241 0.241 0.239 0.235 0.227 0.214 0.194 0.165 0.133 0.113
•	Dec 0.265 0.264 0.262 0.258 0.251 0.237 0.216 0.187 0.154 0.134
•	Jan 0.344 0.343 0.341 0.335 0.325 0.308 0.281 0.243 0.201 0.174
•	Feb 0.392 0.390 0.387 0.381 0.370 0.350 0.319 0.276 0.228 0.198
•	Mar 0.351 0.349 0.347 0.341 0.331 0.314 0.286 0.247 0.204 0.177
•	Apr 0.274 0.272 0.269 0.263 0.252 0.233 0.206 0.176 0.149 0.137
•	May 0.210 0.209 0.207 0.203 0.195 0.182 0.163 0.141 0.123 0.114
•	Jun 0.177 0.176 0.174 0.171 0.164 0.153 0.137 0.119 0.103 0.096
•	Jul 0.156 0.156 0.154 0.151 0.145 0.135 0.121 0.105 0.091 0.085
•	Aug 0.142 0.141 0.140 0.137 0.131 0.122 0.110 0.095 0.083 0.077
•	Sep 0.130 0.129 0.128 0.125 0.120 0.112 0.101 0.087 0.076 0.070
•	
•	Natural Duration curves
•	Oct 1.533 0.985 0.718 0.660 0.499 0.402 0.318 0.270 0.195 0.128
•	Nov 6.100 3.484 2.513 1.703 1.409 0.991 0.839 0.623 0.340 0.209
•	Dec 6.909 4.015 2.897 2.319 1.944 1.595 1.219 0.696 0.450 0.306
•	Jan 7.831 4.409 2.914 2.167 1.669 1.259 0.968 0.775 0.611 0.345
•	Feb 11.435 5.039 2.815 1.781 1.360 1.220 0.851 0.692 0.544 0.367
•	Mar 6.626 3.734 2.536 1.342 1.228 1.071 0.787 0.590 0.418 0.240
•	Apr 3.076 2.147 1.321 1.131 1.034 0.873 0.699 0.557 0.419 0.280
•	May 1.538 1.271 0.918 0.748 0.631 0.562 0.473 0.398 0.336 0.206
•	Jun 1.204 0.889 0.716 0.611 0.520 0.431 0.391 0.339 0.303 0.198
•	Jul 0.923 0.705 0.616 0.530 0.458 0.414 0.361 0.335 0.274 0.184
•	Aug 0.735 0.573 0.497 0.467 0.444 0.388 0.331 0.301 0.259 0.170
•	Sep 0.685 0.493 0.434 0.404 0.369 0.327 0.280 0.238 0.210 0.179

EWR 9

EWR 10

Steelpoort River

IUA 6

RU 66

Desktop Version 2, Printed on 2008/07/03

Summary of IFR rule curves for : B41K Generic Name

Determination based on site specific parameters from SPATSIM database.

Regional Type : Olifants ERC = D

Data are given in m³/s mean monthly flow

	% Points									
Month	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	99%
Oct	1.210	1.204	1.190	1.160	1.105	1.014	0.885	0.738	0.611	0.552
Nov	3.126	3.109	3.075	3.009	2.883	2.664	2.316	1.832	1.293	0.953
Dec	4.586	4.561	4.509	4.406	4.214	3.879	3.345	2.604	1.778	1.258
Jan	7.629	6.954	6.370	5.840	5.314	4.432	3.856	3.056	2.165	1.604
Feb	4.378	4.222	4.076	3.920	3.728	3.402	3.061	2.587	2.058	1.726
Mar	4.740	4.471	4.230	3.997	3.742	3.310	2.946	2.439	1.874	1.519
Apr	2.871	2.856	2.822	2.751	2.619	2.402	2.095	1.742	1.440	1.300
May	1.859	1.850	1.832	1.794	1.722	1.604	1.438	1.247	1.084	1.008
Jun	1.486	1.480	1.465	1.434	1.377	1.283	1.150	0.997	0.867	0.806
Jul	1.151	1.145	1.134	1.110	1.066	0.993	0.890	0.772	0.671	0.624
Aug	0.981	0.976	0.966	0.946	0.909	0.846	0.759	0.658	0.572	0.532
Sep	0.919	0.914	0.905	0.886	0.851	0.793	0.711	0.616	0.535	0.498

Reserve flows without High Flows

Oct	0.988	0.983	0.973	0.953	0.915	0.853	0.764	0.663	0.576	0.535
Nov	1.680	1.674	1.661	1.635	1.587	1.503	1.370	1.185	0.978	0.848
Dec	2.139	2.131	2.115	2.082	2.021	1.914	1.744	1.508	1.245	1.080
Jan	2.641	2.631	2.610	2.570	2.495	2.363	2.153	1.862	1.537	1.333
Feb	3.304	3.292	3.266	3.216	3.121	2.956	2.694	2.329	1.923	1.667
Mar	2.800	2.790	2.768	2.726	2.646	2.506	2.283	1.974	1.630	1.413
Apr	2.320	2.310	2.286	2.239	2.149	2.003	1.795	1.557	1.352	1.258
May	1.859	1.850	1.832	1.794	1.722	1.604	1.438	1.247	1.084	1.008
Jun	1.486	1.480	1.465	1.434	1.377	1.283	1.150	0.997	0.867	0.806
Jul	1.151	1.145	1.134	1.110	1.066	0.993	0.890	0.772	0.671	0.624
Aug	0.981	0.976	0.966	0.946	0.909	0.846	0.759	0.658	0.572	0.532
Sep	0.919	0.914	0.905	0.886	0.851	0.793	0.711	0.616	0.535	0.498

Natural Duration curves

Oct	6.515	5.339	4.096	3.468	2.942	2.681	2.117	1.785	1.430	0.978
Nov	34.452	18.530	13.241	11.844	8.692	7.230	5.853	4.819	3.160	1.709
Dec	38.702	30.320	22.652	18.440	14.296	11.380	9.207	6.892	5.070	3.737
Jan	47.540	34.558	23.559	19.941	15.248	13.213	10.532	8.673	6.355	4.413
Feb	75.694	32.755	20.449	17.861	13.533	10.437	8.602	7.928	6.585	4.960
Mar	34.644	18.828	16.163	13.183	10.510	8.714	7.605	6.358	4.988	3.506
Apr	16.593	14.421	12.342	9.236	7.566	6.539	5.760	4.861	4.059	2.253
May	10.850	7.538	6.545	5.731	5.059	4.025	3.554	3.121	2.614	1.688
Jun	7.006	5.316	4.321	3.738	3.210	2.778	2.523	2.245	1.902	1.350
Jul	5.003	3.633	2.890	2.617	2.393	2.244	1.983	1.699	1.557	1.284
Aug	3.558	2.860	2.371	2.053	1.938	1.773	1.680	1.501	1.337	1.240
Sep	3.704	2.770	2.207	2.002	1.732	1.555	1.443	1.354	1.231	1.065

Olifants River

IUA 10

RU 96

•	Desktop Version 2, Printed on 9/2/2014										
•	Summary of IFR rule curves for : Olifants_11 Generic Name										
•	Determination based on site specific parameters from SPATSIM database.										
•	Regional Type : Olifants ERC = D										
•											
•	Data are given in m ³ /s mean monthly flow										
•											
•	% Points										
•	Month	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	99%
•	Oct	5.963	5.921	5.827	5.632	5.269	4.671	3.827	2.854	2.023	1.637
•	Nov	11.353	11.288	11.151	10.881	10.374	9.490	8.083	6.129	3.951	2.580
•	Dec	14.783	14.696	14.516	14.159	13.490	12.323	10.466	7.887	5.011	3.202
•	Jan	15.647	15.207	14.748	14.188	13.396	12.034	10.329	7.958	5.316	3.654
•	Feb	26.483	25.063	23.748	22.399	20.803	18.091	15.433	11.740	7.623	5.033
•	Mar	17.392	16.943	16.464	15.865	15.000	13.510	11.601	8.947	5.989	4.129
•	Apr	12.940	12.850	12.646	12.223	11.436	10.140	8.310	6.203	4.401	3.564
•	May	9.435	9.371	9.225	8.924	8.364	7.440	6.136	4.635	3.352	2.755
•	Jun	7.664	7.612	7.494	7.250	6.794	6.044	4.985	3.765	2.723	2.238
•	Jul	6.288	6.245	6.148	5.947	5.574	4.958	4.089	3.089	2.234	1.836
•	Aug	5.344	5.307	5.225	5.054	4.737	4.214	3.475	2.625	1.898	1.560
•	Sep	4.857	4.824	4.749	4.594	4.305	3.830	3.159	2.386	1.725	1.418
•											
•	Reserve flows without High Flows										
•	Oct	5.479	5.442	5.358	5.183	4.857	4.321	3.564	2.692	1.947	1.600
•	Nov	8.800	8.752	8.652	8.454	8.085	7.439	6.412	4.985	3.395	2.394
•	Dec	10.667	10.609	10.488	10.249	9.801	9.018	7.773	6.043	4.115	2.902
•	Jan	12.877	12.807	12.661	12.372	11.831	10.886	9.383	7.295	4.967	3.503
•	Feb	16.506	16.416	16.229	15.858	15.165	13.953	12.027	9.351	6.367	4.490
•	Mar	14.622	14.543	14.377	14.049	13.434	12.361	10.655	8.284	5.641	3.978
•	Apr	11.944	11.862	11.678	11.297	10.588	9.418	7.768	5.868	4.243	3.488
•	May	9.435	9.371	9.225	8.924	8.364	7.440	6.136	4.635	3.352	2.755
•	Jun	7.664	7.612	7.494	7.250	6.794	6.044	4.985	3.765	2.723	2.238
•	Jul	6.288	6.245	6.148	5.947	5.574	4.958	4.089	3.089	2.234	1.836
•	Aug	5.344	5.307	5.225	5.054	4.737	4.214	3.475	2.625	1.898	1.560
•	Sep	4.857	4.824	4.749	4.594	4.305	3.830	3.159	2.386	1.725	1.418
•											
•	Natural Duration curves										
•	Oct	34.155	21.024	14.527	12.407	11.003	8.535	6.978	6.411	5.462	3.741
•	Nov	129.340	89.815	59.460	42.091	35.104	27.207	20.629	15.845	10.096	5.972
•	Dec	133.404	108.580	88.153	77.106	54.126	43.078	32.658	24.335	16.540	8.737
•	Jan	201.803	147.711	94.915	69.601	56.041	46.195	36.376	30.514	22.364	14.303
•	Feb	309.020	154.398	82.866	64.922	48.582	35.884	33.027	27.468	21.615	14.563
•	Mar	150.653	100.455	73.167	55.417	38.564	30.208	23.600	20.228	15.901	9.229
•	Apr	81.944	55.328	40.517	33.546	29.398	24.205	18.839	14.039	12.014	7.045
•	May	42.496	32.919	22.849	20.023	16.551	14.863	12.616	10.697	8.550	5.305
•	Jun	26.759	20.752	17.400	14.653	12.168	11.389	9.846	8.299	6.647	4.591
•	Jul	18.911	15.722	12.634	12.018	10.088	8.972	8.147	7.527	5.903	4.114
•	Aug	14.598	12.582	10.335	9.685	8.266	7.374	6.859	6.392	5.175	4.555
•	Sep	15.968	10.509	8.912	7.870	7.311	6.701	6.057	5.351	4.441	3.947

EWR 13

Olifants River

IUA 12

RU 105

•	Desktop Version 2, Printed on 9/2/2014										
•	Summary of IFR rule curves for : Olifants_13 Generic Name										
•	Determination based on site specific parameters from SPATSIM database.										
•	Regional Type : Olifants ERC = C										
•											
•	Data are given in m ³ /s mean monthly flow										
•											
•											
•	% Points										
•	Month	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	99%
•	Oct	6.039	6.003	5.920	5.749	5.429	4.903	4.160	3.305	2.573	2.233
•	Nov	11.488	11.427	11.300	11.049	10.579	9.757	8.451	6.636	4.612	3.339
•	Dec	15.829	15.742	15.560	15.201	14.529	13.354	11.487	8.892	6.000	4.181
•	Jan	17.747	16.879	16.076	15.254	14.284	12.635	11.025	8.788	6.294	4.725
•	Feb	38.032	34.952	32.250	29.739	27.140	22.772	19.566	15.111	10.145	7.021
•	Mar	20.220	19.340	18.513	17.642	16.581	14.773	12.910	10.320	7.434	5.618
•	Apr	14.289	14.199	13.996	13.575	12.792	11.501	9.679	7.582	5.788	4.955
•	May	9.766	9.709	9.579	9.311	8.812	7.989	6.827	5.490	4.347	3.816
•	Jun	7.939	7.893	7.788	7.572	7.170	6.507	5.570	4.493	3.571	3.142
•	Jul	6.412	6.375	6.291	6.118	5.795	5.264	4.514	3.650	2.912	2.568
•	Aug	5.417	5.386	5.316	5.171	4.901	4.456	3.828	3.104	2.486	2.199
•	Sep	4.912	4.884	4.821	4.691	4.448	4.048	3.482	2.832	2.276	2.017
•											
•	Reserve flows without High Flows										
•	Oct	5.338	5.308	5.239	5.096	4.830	4.392	3.773	3.061	2.453	2.169
•	Nov	7.798	7.762	7.688	7.540	7.263	6.781	6.013	4.946	3.757	3.009
•	Dec	9.486	9.442	9.350	9.169	8.830	8.238	7.297	5.988	4.530	3.612
•	Jan	11.645	11.591	11.478	11.255	10.836	10.105	8.942	7.327	5.526	4.393
•	Feb	15.468	15.396	15.245	14.947	14.389	13.413	11.862	9.707	7.305	5.794
•	Mar	14.118	14.052	13.915	13.643	13.133	12.242	10.827	8.859	6.666	5.287
•	Apr	12.335	12.263	12.098	11.758	11.123	10.078	8.603	6.904	5.452	4.777
•	May	9.766	9.709	9.579	9.311	8.812	7.989	6.827	5.490	4.347	3.816
•	Jun	7.939	7.893	7.788	7.572	7.170	6.507	5.570	4.493	3.571	3.142
•	Jul	6.412	6.375	6.291	6.118	5.795	5.264	4.514	3.650	2.912	2.568
•	Aug	5.417	5.386	5.316	5.171	4.901	4.456	3.828	3.104	2.486	2.199
•	Sep	4.912	4.884	4.821	4.691	4.448	4.048	3.482	2.832	2.276	2.017
•											
•	Natural Duration curves										
•	Oct	38.986	26.997	20.968	17.600	15.576	12.698	10.353	9.681	8.180	6.776
•	Nov	135.664	100.667	69.591	52.118	43.958	35.305	27.643	21.053	14.379	9.140
•	Dec	159.226	121.393	103.136	94.105	74.395	52.628	42.552	32.583	25.243	14.049
•	Jan	250.168	172.678	119.762	89.169	74.817	61.302	49.884	42.716	31.075	23.111
•	Feb	342.101	221.970	109.433	83.180	69.887	59.131	48.223	42.617	35.417	25.781
•	Mar	206.541	161.772	109.711	82.855	55.052	44.153	37.392	32.919	26.154	18.022
•	Apr	109.815	75.741	57.785	51.786	42.215	36.412	31.308	23.322	20.988	14.394
•	May	53.913	42.593	35.559	30.279	25.680	23.581	20.046	17.089	15.095	9.909
•	Jun	36.292	28.360	24.880	21.825	19.383	17.963	15.567	14.016	11.863	8.765
•	Jul	27.845	21.935	18.922	17.398	14.639	13.908	12.907	11.604	9.901	7.680
•	Aug	20.214	17.507	15.222	14.027	12.287	11.481	10.794	10.338	8.610	7.056
•	Sep	22.029	16.150	13.962	12.191	11.038	10.177	9.425	8.461	7.230	6.478

EWR 16

Olifants River

IUA 12

RU 116

•	Desktop Version 2, Printed on 9/2/2014										
•	Summary of IFR rule curves for : Olifants_16 Generic Name										
•	Determination based on site specific parameters from SPATSIM database.										
•	Regional Type : Olifants ERC = C										
•											
•	Data are given in m ³ /s mean monthly flow										
•											
•											
•	• % Points										
•	Month	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	99%
•	Oct	5.687	5.650	5.566	5.393	5.069	4.537	3.785	2.919	2.179	1.834
•	Nov	10.423	10.366	10.246	10.008	9.564	8.788	7.554	5.839	3.928	2.725
•	Dec	14.411	14.329	14.158	13.820	13.187	12.082	10.324	7.882	5.160	3.447
•	Jan	16.772	15.998	15.271	14.506	13.575	11.989	10.357	8.089	5.561	3.970
•	Feb	36.487	33.633	31.114	28.744	26.246	22.043	18.807	14.312	9.300	6.148
•	Mar	19.520	18.732	17.975	17.152	16.110	14.333	12.397	9.706	6.707	4.820
•	Apr	13.746	13.654	13.445	13.013	12.208	10.883	9.012	6.858	5.016	4.160
•	May	9.401	9.341	9.205	8.923	8.398	7.532	6.311	4.905	3.702	3.143
•	Jun	7.603	7.555	7.446	7.219	6.797	6.102	5.121	3.991	3.026	2.576
•	Jul	6.155	6.116	6.028	5.846	5.507	4.947	4.158	3.249	2.472	2.111
•	Aug	5.216	5.183	5.109	4.956	4.670	4.199	3.535	2.770	2.116	1.812
•	Sep	4.740	4.711	4.644	4.505	4.247	3.822	3.222	2.531	1.940	1.665
•											
•	Reserve flows without High Flows										
•	Oct	5.126	5.094	5.022	4.871	4.590	4.128	3.476	2.724	2.082	1.783
•	Nov	7.438	7.400	7.323	7.169	6.882	6.380	5.581	4.472	3.236	2.458
•	Dec	9.123	9.077	8.981	8.791	8.436	7.816	6.831	5.461	3.934	2.974
•	Jan	11.402	11.344	11.224	10.986	10.540	9.761	8.523	6.803	4.885	3.679
•	Feb	15.674	15.594	15.428	15.100	14.484	13.410	11.701	9.327	6.681	5.016
•	Mar	14.150	14.078	13.928	13.631	13.076	12.106	10.564	8.420	6.031	4.528
•	Apr	12.113	12.036	11.859	11.494	10.814	9.694	8.112	6.292	4.735	4.011
•	May	9.401	9.341	9.205	8.923	8.398	7.532	6.311	4.905	3.702	3.143
•	Jun	7.603	7.555	7.446	7.219	6.797	6.102	5.121	3.991	3.026	2.576
•	Jul	6.155	6.116	6.028	5.846	5.507	4.947	4.158	3.249	2.472	2.111
•	Aug	5.216	5.183	5.109	4.956	4.670	4.199	3.535	2.770	2.116	1.812
•	Sep	4.740	4.711	4.644	4.505	4.247	3.822	3.222	2.531	1.940	1.665
•											
•	Natural Duration curves										
•	Oct	40.005	27.834	21.569	18.257	16.110	13.269	10.745	10.226	8.509	7.030
•	Nov	139.209	101.204	70.351	53.329	44.518	35.745	28.318	21.852	14.649	9.549
•	Dec	169.310	127.901	108.094	95.654	77.292	58.744	46.464	33.281	26.355	14.423
•	Jan	301.721	185.447	123.536	95.520	76.079	66.906	53.211	44.751	33.610	24.108
•	Feb	403.100	261.698	120.304	94.808	77.402	61.996	50.128	45.176	35.962	26.608
•	Mar	241.614	177.102	122.950	86.081	56.369	49.776	39.083	34.636	27.684	18.690
•	Apr	116.346	83.009	63.522	53.160	44.066	38.449	32.639	24.649	21.601	15.154
•	May	55.526	44.702	36.820	31.119	27.233	25.034	21.158	17.790	15.834	10.353
•	Jun	37.901	29.383	26.308	22.411	20.482	18.858	16.138	14.637	12.508	9.140
•	Jul	29.245	23.656	19.866	18.272	15.539	14.636	13.964	12.093	10.323	7.997
•	Aug	21.382	18.720	15.681	14.729	13.071	12.130	11.473	10.898	8.931	7.273
•	Sep	22.928	17.226	14.703	12.731	11.952	10.787	9.950	9.093	7.585	6.725

Appendix C: Letter of Response, DWS



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X313, Pretoria 0001 / Sedibeng Building, 185 Francis Baard Street, Pretoria
Tel: 012 336 7500 Fax: 012 323 4470 or 012 326 2715

Enquiries: Mr L Mabuda **Tel:** 012 336 8477 **Email:** MabudaL@dws.gov.za **Ref.:** 14/16/12/2

Mr Danie Pienaar
Acting Managing Executive
Kruger National Park
Private Bag X402
SKUKUZA
1350

Dear Mr Pienaar

FOLLOW-UP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECOLOGICAL RESERVE AND AUGMENTATION FROM STORAGE FROM DAMS IN THE OLIFANTS RIVER SYSTEM

I refer to your letter dated 14 June 2016, in which you were requesting the implementation of operating rules study for both the Blyderivierpoort and De Hoop Dams in an effort to meet bulk water requirements for Lepelle Northern Water (LNW) and the Environmental Water Requirements (EWRs) in the Kruger National Park.

Given that the water allocations from the De Hoop Dam are not currently utilized, the possibility to shift some or all of LNW's demand from the Blyde Dam to the De Hoop Dam in order to ensure adequate supply for agricultural sector during 2016-2017 growing season, as well as meet the water requirements for the Maruleng Local Municipality is acceptable, provided that the De Hoop Dam is not drained to a point that the dam starts with low storage after the rainy season. It is therefore recommended that 5 million m³/a allocation for Lepelle Northern Water from the Blyderivierpoort Dam be shifted to the De Hoop Dam and that the Integrated Olifants/Blyde operating rules should be implemented to impose restrictions on the remaining demands.

Implementing the Integrated Olifants operating rules and utilising RESLIM-O Decision Support System (DSS) to provide operations support for releases of water from the De Hoop Dam is supported. I would thus request you to share with my Department the results of the technical analysis and plans of the RESLIM-O DSS that you intend to implement to optimise releases from the De Hoop Dam. This will enable my technical staff to provide input and advice regarding implementation of this tool.

Issues raised regarding the hydraulic study to track and monitor slug/controlled releases from the De Hoop Dam down to meet the downstream water requirements for the Kruger National

Park, LNW and International Obligations will be addressed through the Integrated Olifants River System Operating Rule study which my Department has already completed the Terms of Reference (ToR) for. The main objectives of this study are to:

- develop the Integrated System Annual Operating Rules, which will be applied to regulate the systems' water availability so that its distribution can be reconciled with the water demand patterns on the systems;
- improve the efficiency of use of the available resource including the conjunctive use of all resources within a systems context, and detailed information on the timing and location of water requirements;
- Development/calibration of the Decision Support System (DSS); and
- Determination of the state of water resources availability and reconcile these with water demand patterns.

This study therefore aims to enable optimisation of system operation for the Olifants River System in an integrated manner. My Department thus supports the request and cooperation to achieve the implementation of EWR and the efforts by stakeholders to improve the situation particularly the implementation of water restrictions by the Agricultural sector and other key stakeholders is most welcome.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nsk' with a flourish underneath.

Mr Sifiso Mkhize
ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 15/7/16

Appendix D: Example User Interface

WReMP model for Olifants system

Estimate Natural flow

Month: August Week: Week 2 Restriction: 0 **CALCULATE**

Rainfall stations

Witbank Middelburg Bronkhorstsp Loskop

Date	Witbank	Middelburg	Bronkhorstsp	Loskop
8/8/2016	0	0	0	0
8/15/2016	0	0	0	0

State of storage in major dams (% of FSC)

NodeB12B DummyDam

Date	Bronkhorstsp	Witbank	Middelburg	Loskop	RustDeWinter	Mkombo	FlagBoshiek
8/8/2016	69	51.6	44.4	55.1	51.5	20.8	25.7
8/15/2016	68.9	51.2	43.5	54.8	51.2	20.5	25

EWR Flows

EWR Site 1 EWR Site 5 EWR Site 6 EWR Site 9

Date	EWR 1	EWR 5	EWR 6	EWR 9
8/8/2016	0.01	1.17	0.68	
8/15/2016	0.01	1.17	0.68	

EWR Compliance

ERW Site	Natural flow	Observed flow	EWR Requirement	
ERW 1	2.29	0.01	0.22	Non compliant!
ERW 5	5.31	1.17	1.34	Non compliant!
ERW 6	2.63	0.68	0.15	Non compliant!
ERW 9	2.89	2.08	1.28	
ERW 11	12.33	4.18	4.08	
ERW 16	15.56	1.76	5.38	Non compliant!

Appendix E: River Management Log used by KNP to document river operations

RIVER MANAGEMENT COMMUNICATION LOGSHEET KNP

Management Problem	Management Options	Management Action	Result
30 Aug 2016 Crocodile River Irrigation allocation and river flow reduction from Riverside to Mozambique border	1. Inform DWS / IUCMA 2. Change dam releases 3. Water Restrictions 4. Verify flow readings IUCMA notice to all	Dawie van Rooy, TSB Sugar: Propose that the 20 hour/week irrigation is maintained and also that outlet from Kwena must be increased slightly  Fw 16 Kwena performance Aug Dav	
30 Aug 2016 Luvuvhu River flow at Mhinga restored to Reserve level (0.7 cumec)	1. Inform DWS 2. Change dam releases 3. Water Restrictions 4. Verify flow readings KNP RM informed DWS	Meetings with the regional infrastructure branch manager of DWS and with the Nandoni Dam Operator to inform them of KNP River Management procedure seem to have improved the situation  WhatsApp Chat with Luvuvhu.txt	Flow recovered to 0.7 cumec
22 Aug 2016 Sabie River at Phabeni KNP need to do emergency excavation works at Phabeni abstraction works	1. Inform DWS 2. Change dam releases 3. Water Restrictions 4. Verify flow readings KNP RM informed IUCMA	Eddie Riddell – KNP River Manager: Please be aware that the KNP has had to commence with some emergency excavation of sand around our abstraction points at Phabeni gate due to low flows Brian Jackson: Specialist Manager: IUCMA We will increase outlet from Sept as the reserve is higher then	No action required from IUCMA yet, this is just to inform them. With the increase in temperature it might be necessary to increase outflow from Inyaka Dam soon
19 Aug 2016 Luvuvhu River flow	1. Inform DWS 2. Change dam	Eddie Riddell – KNP River Manager: Solly, flows at Mhinga dropped to very low	Outflow from Nandoni was increased on 20 Aug from

at Mhinga dropped to 0.5 cumec and below IFR of 0.7 cumec	releases 3. Water Restrictions 4. Verify flow readings KNP RM informed DWS	levels, is there still 1.6 cumec released from Nandoni? Dear Sandra and Albert Please note that releases from Nandoni dam were unexpectedly reduced over the past two days, such that flows at Mhinga reduced to 0.4 cumec. We were not informed	190mm to 280mm and then to 200mm (1.3 cumec).
15 Aug 2016 Crocodile river flow in Very High worry level Flow – 0.36 cumec Reserve – 1.53 cumec	1. Inform DWS / IUCMA 2. Change dam releases 3. Water Restrictions 4. Verify flow readings KNP informed IUCMA and DWS	Crocodile River at Ten Bosh is currently flowing below the Very High Worry zone and is currently 0.36 cumec instead of the 0.6 cumec interim minimum. Flow at Karino is 3.1 cumec but at Riverside is only 0.5 cumec instead of the 1.8 cumec target. Brian Jackson: Specialist Manager: Water Resources Planning and Operations - IUCMA We have banned irrigation for 3 days as of yesterday and have released more from Kwena from Friday. We also made a pulse release from yesterday until this morning of 7 cumecs to get water down there quicker. However, I am concerned for September and October. Without rains we will be under severe stress as we will no longer have enough	Flow increased to 0.8 cumec
8 Aug 2016 Olifants river flow drops to 1 cumec. RQO = 2.18 cumec	1. Inform DWS / Lepelle 2. Change dam releases 3. Water Restrictions 4. Verify flow readings Inform Lepelle	Eddie Riddell – KNP River Manager: Flow dropped and then recovered. What is the present status at Barrage? Levy Majadibodu : Scheme Manager Lepele: We had increased flow from Blyde Dam	Flow back to 2.5 cumec at Mamba  WhatsApp Chat with Lower Olifants.txt
26 Jul 2016 Olifants River flow drops to 1.2 cumec. Reserve 2.5 cumec	1. Inform DWS / Lepelle 2. Change dam releases 3. Water Restrictions 4. Verify flow readings Inform Lepelle	Eddie Riddell – KNP River Manager: Levy – Flow at Mamba very low, what is the present status at Barrage? Levy Majadibodu : Scheme Manager Lepele: Will look into it and inform	16mm rain received on 27 July Flow increased and stayed above Reserve for rest of the month.
21 Jul 2016	1. Inform DWS	Eddie Riddell – KNP River Manager: Augmentation from Inyaka will be required	Flow in Sabie increased to 3.5 cumec

Sabie river flow drop to 1.5 cumec Reserve = 4 cumec	2. Change dam releases 3. Water Restrictions 4. Verify flow readings KNP RM informed DWS	to improve flow Mr Sipho Magagule – IUCMA Confirmed that release was made – 25 Jul	
23 June 2016 Luvuvhu River flow at Mhinga dropped to 0.6 cumec and below IFR of 0.9 cumec	1. Inform DWS 2. Change dam releases 3. Water Restrictions 4. Verify flow readings KNP RM informed DWS	Eddie Riddell – KNP River Manager: Please inform if the release from Nandoni was made as requested? Mr. Solly Thantsha' Area Manager Department of Water & Sanitation: Sorted out today, the Water control officer forgot to adjust	Flow at Mhinga increased to 1.2 cumec