

WATER NEWS

2024/25 2nd EDITION



Water Research Commission

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SAVE LIFE

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VISION

Sufficient, equitable and quality water resources
for all in the Inkomati-Usuthu Water Management Area

MISSION

To efficiently manage water resources by empowering our stakeholders
in our quest to contribute towards transformation by promoting equal access to
water and protecting the environment

VALUES

Integrity
Batho Pele (Stakeholders Orientation)
Accountability
Diversity
Transparency

SLOGAN:

“INKOMATI-USUTHU CMA, YOUR PARTNER IN
WATER MANAGEMENT”

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Inkomati-Usuthu CMA

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INKOMATI-USUTHU WATER MANAGEMENT AREA





DON'T DISPOSE OF NAPPIES IN RIVERS AND DAMS

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and stop pollution*

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*Inkomati-Usuthu CMA, your
partner in water management*





FOREWORD

BY THE Acting CEO:

Dr Nicollete Mhlanga-Ndlovu

Dear Stakeholders

As we close the third quarter of the 2024/25 financial year, it is time to reflect on the significant strides made by the Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA) amidst challenging fiscal constraints. This period has seen our agency continue to work diligently to advance our strategic objectives despite the limitations imposed by the current economic landscape.

The past months have been a demonstration of the resilience and professionalism of our team. In line with national priorities, we have focused on aligning our Annual Performance Plan (APP) with broader government objectives while taking necessary steps to adhere to cost-containment measures. This balancing act required careful resource allocation, prioritisation, and constant innovation. The financial discipline needed to ensure compliance with budgetary guidelines has, without a doubt, tested our organisational capabilities. However, I am immensely proud of how our management and staff have responded to these challenges with remarkable patience, understanding, and a steadfast commitment to our core mandate of sustainable water resource management.

Our efforts in improving operational efficiency, exploring alternative revenue



streams, and strengthening partnerships have allowed us to navigate the fiscal pressures with determination and strategic foresight. This year, despite budget limitations, has proven that through collaboration, creative problem-solving, and an unwavering focus on our mission, IUCMA remains poised to fulfil its responsibilities to the communities we serve.

As we prepare for the year ahead, I am confident that the work done so far has set a strong foundation for the future. The support and collaboration of our stakeholders and staff remain pivotal to our success, and I want to extend my deepest gratitude to each of you. Your contributions and dedication are integral to the agency's ability to continue its vital work.

As we approach the end of the year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our stakeholders and staff members a joyous and peaceful festive season. Let us take this time to recharge and reflect on the challenges we overcame and the successes we achieved. I am excited about what the future holds and look forward to working together to ensure the continued success of the IUCMA in the years to come.

May the festive season bring you joy, rest, and renewal as we move forward into a new year of opportunity and growth. In comparison to the previous year, the data demonstrate similar compliance.

Thanking you for your continued support,

Dr Nicollete Mhlanga-Ndlovu.



SOME DAMS IN THE INKOMATI-USUTHU

WATER MANAGEMENT AREA



Located along Crocodile river, the **Kwena Dam** is a combined gravity and arch type boosting a total catchment area of 954 sq.km.



The **Driekoppies Dam** along the Lomati river boost a full capacity of 251 Mm³ and was opened in 1998.

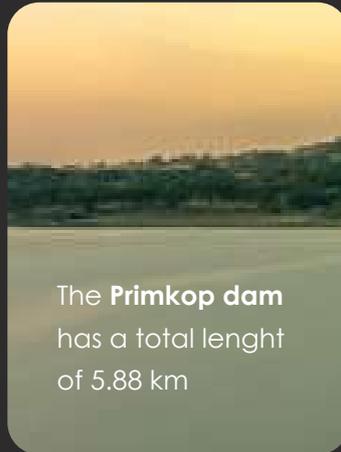
The **Jericho Dam** in Mpama river was built in 1966/68 with a full capacity of 59.5 mil.cub.m.



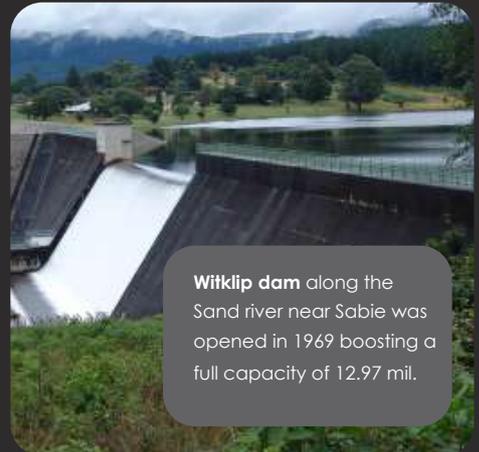
Da Gama Dam was established in 1977 along the Witwaters river and boost a full capacity of 13.58 mil.cub.m.



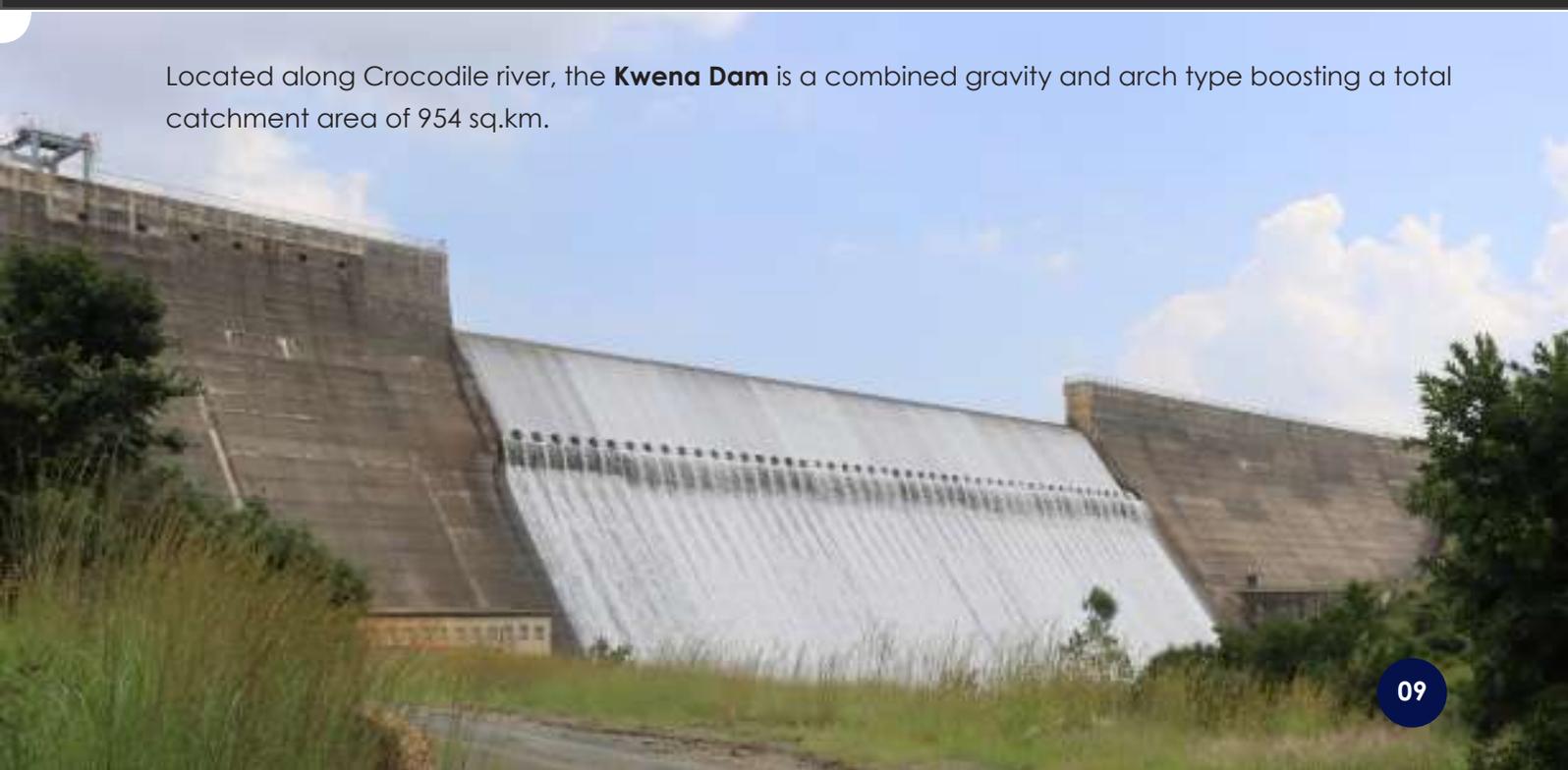
The **Primkop dam** has a total lenght of 5.88 km



Witklip dam along the Sand river near Sabie was opened in 1969 boosting a full capacity of 12.97 mil.



Located along Crocodile river, the **Kwena Dam** is a combined gravity and arch type boosting a total catchment area of 954 sq.km.





Editor's *Note*



Warm Greetings!

This newsletter offers a comprehensive reflection on the activities and milestones achieved by the IUCMA. It showcases the organisation's dedication to sustainable water resource management, even amidst challenges such as fiscal constraints, while celebrating the initiatives that highlight its commitment to community upliftment and stakeholder engagement.

This edition gives a detailed recap of the strategic planning session held by IUCMA management, which focused on aligning the organisation's objectives with national priorities. The session highlighted the importance of operational efficiency, stakeholder collaboration, and innovative revenue strategies, all while adhering to

cost containment measures.

We also provide an overview of the broader governance frameworks and legislative mandates that guide the IUCMA's operations. These insights are paired with exploring the Annual Performance Plan (APP) submission process, shedding light on how the agency ensures alignment with national development goals and compliance with regulatory requirements.

Beyond strategy and governance, it also features several articles celebrating key achievements. These include the launch of the Young Water Professionals (YWP) initiative, a platform dedicated to nurturing the next generation of water sector leaders.

Further coverage includes a feature on the learnerships supported by IUCMA, which continue to provide educational and employment opportunities, strengthening the skills base in the catchment area. Additionally, updates on sand mining regulations emphasise IUCMA's role in promoting sustainable practices while safeguarding riverine ecosystems.



As we celebrate these accomplishments, we remain mindful of the road ahead. Each article is a testament to the IUCMA's vision of equitable and sustainable water resource management.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. Wishing all our readers, stakeholders, and staff a joyous festive season and a prosperous new year!

Ms Sylvia Machimana



**QR CODE FOR THE
IUCMA WEBSITE**



UNDERSTANDING EXISTING LAWFUL WATER USE FOR STREAM-FLOW REDUCTION ACTIVITIES



*Mr. S'phamandla Mchunu
Legal Advisor*

This article was written by S'phamandla Mchunu, Legal Advisor at the Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency, in his official capacity.

The legal framework surrounding water use in South Africa has seen notable developments following the case of Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation & Others v Forestry South Africa (unreported case no. CCT40/24, Constitutional Court). This matter, which began in 2019, raised key issues about the interpretation of the National Water Act 1998 ("the Act"), particularly Section 33. The ruling has significant implications for commercial forestry operations and water-use regulations.

Context and Key Issues

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency, and Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA) had adopted specific conditions for recognising Existing Lawful Water Use (ELU) certificates. These certificates confirm a water user's right to utilise water based on verified historical use during the two years preceding the Act's commencement.

For commercial forestry, the regulators sought to impose two controversial conditions:

Stream-Flow Reduction Activities: Forestry South Africa (FSA) contested the requirement that commercial forestry operations, established or being established during the qualifying period, must prove authorisation under pre-existing laws to obtain ELU certificates. The court was asked to determine whether such authorisation was necessary.

Genus Exchange: The regulators argued that changing tree species, such as switching from eucalyptus to pine, required a new water-use licence. FSA disputed this, citing insufficient scientific evidence to justify the additional requirement.

Litigation Journey

The dispute travelled through multiple courts, with critical rulings along the way:

Western Cape High Court: This court issued a mixed ruling, granting FSA an interdict to prevent regulators from making ELU declarations related to stream-flow reduction for forestry until the matter was resolved.

Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA): The SCA ruled in FSA's favour, affirming that the requirement for authorisation under pre-existing laws was unnecessary for stream-flow reduction activities. Additionally, it declared that foresters could change tree species without requiring a new water-use licence.

Constitutional Court: The regulators sought to appeal the SCA's decision, but leave to appeal was denied, making the SCA's judgment final and binding.

Implications for IUCMA

The SCA ruling clarified the operational framework for IUCMA and other regulators:

Simplified Verification for ELU Certificates: Commercial forestry operations established or being established during the qualifying period can now be certified without needing proof of authorisation under pre-existing laws.

Flexibility in Genus Exchange: Foresters are no longer required to apply for new licences when changing tree species, as the court found no substantial evidence to support claims of differing water-use impacts among genera.

Following the Constitutional Court's decision, the interdict obtained in 2019 lapsed on 6 August 2024. Consequently, no legal barriers prevent the DWS and IUCMA from processing licence applications, ELU declarations, or conversions related to commercial forestry.

Conclusion

This landmark case has redefined the regulatory landscape for commercial forestry, aligning it with the principles of sustainability and equity enshrined in the Act. Regulators and water users are encouraged to adapt to the clarified legal framework while ensuring compliance with the overarching goal of protecting South Africa's water resources.

IUCMA MANAGEMENT'S STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION FOR SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



*Ms Charmaine Zulu
Communication & Intergovernmental
Relations*

The Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA), established under the National Water Act (No. 36 of 1998), plays a vital role in the decentralised management of water resources. Strategic planning is a cornerstone of its operations, and the Annual Performance Plan (APP) for the 2025/26 financial year represents an opportunity to align the agency's objectives with national priorities while navigating cost containment challenges and regulatory requirements.

Efforts are being directed toward prioritising core mandates, such as sustainable water resource management while adhering to stringent fiscal measures. A focus on operational efficiency has been emphasised, with steps being taken to streamline internal processes, enhance stakeholder collaboration, and harness technology for better resource allocation. Revenue generation initiatives, including water use charges and partnerships with private and international entities, are being explored to alleviate budgetary constraints. Additionally, the agency has committed to complying with cost containment measures outlined by the National Treasury, which include minimising non-essential expenses related to travel, events, and consultants.

Like other government agencies, the budget structure for IUCMA is determined by allocations from the National Treasury through the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS). The budget's key components include operational funding for salaries, project funding for initiatives like catchment rehabilitation and compliance monitoring, and conditional grants tied to national priorities. The annual budget cycle involves drafting and submitting the budget as part of the APP, undergoing a review by the National Treasury for alignment with national objectives, and obtaining parliamentary approval. stable groundwater resources.

The draft APP is subject to rigorous review processes. It must be submitted to the National Treasury and the Department of Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation (DPME), aligning with provisions under the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA). This ensures that financial management is effective, financial statements are annually submitted, and budgetary submissions comply with legal requirements. Feedback from these reviews is incorporated into the final APP, which is then tabled in Parliament for approval.

IUCMA operates within a robust governance framework guided by key legislative provisions. The National Water Act underpins its mandate, while the PFMA governs financial accountability. Additionally, the Water Services Act and the Constitution of South Africa mandate the equitable and sustainable management of water resources. These frameworks ensure that the agency's efforts are aligned with national water security and socio-economic development goals. Parliamentary oversight is crucial in ensuring that IUCMA operates in line with national strategies. Budget approvals and APP alignment with parliamentary priorities are closely monitored through portfolio and public accounts committees.

To strengthen its strategic approach, IUCMA has been encouraged to engage proactively with stakeholders, fostering partnerships with local communities, industries, and other entities for shared responsibility in water management. Monitoring and reporting systems are being enhanced to track financial performance effectively and ensure APP objectives align with fiscal discipline and service delivery goals.

Through meticulous planning and adherence to governance principles, the IUCMA is poised to address the pressing challenges of water resource management while ensuring long-term sustainability and equitable access to this vital resource.



Encouragement: Acting CEO Dr Nicollette Mhlanga-Ndlovu encourages managers and assistant managers to be active participants.



Financial Status: Chief Financial Officer Ms. Sandra Mabunda giving the IUCMA financial status.



Purpose: Mr Gerson Nevari giving the purpose of the session,



Facilitation: Mr. Sengfeng facilitates the session.



Questions & Answer Session: DWS Head Office Ms. Babalwa Manyakanyaka on the shareholder's mandate.



Questions & Answer Session: Mr. Mduduzi Nkuna participates in a question and answer session.

WATER RESEARCH COMMISSION AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MPUMALANGA JOIN FORCES TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY



Mr. Siboniso Mahlalela
Communications & Intergovernmental Relations

The Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA) and other stakeholders in the water sector witness a strategic partnership formation between the Water Research Commission (WRC) and the University of Mpumalanga (UMP) to address pressing water challenges in the province.

The objective of the two-day event was to strengthen water and sanitation resilience through research and innovation. It also highlighted strategic interventions supported by the WRC to accelerate change. The event featured knowledge-sharing sessions that helped identify key needs, exhibitions, and stakeholder engagement to showcase innovations and products to improve water quality, availability, and sustainability in the province. The event featured inspiring keynote addresses and collaborative discussions led by Mr. Hasani Makhubele (Manager: Institution and Participation) & Dr. Tendai Sawunyama

(Manager: Resource Planning and Operations), emphasising that sustainability and water quality improvement are no longer optional but a necessity for the future.

Dr Jennifer Molwantwa, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for WRC indicated that the engagement is driven by the need to improve where there are challenges and where the Research Commission institution can provide solutions. Regarding the reasons for partnering with the UMP, Dr Molwantwa stated, "At the Water Research Commission, we develop many models, many guidelines, and we find a home in the higher education curriculum. So, we are creating future leaders that will be able to address water challenges in the country. This Memorandum of Understanding provides a framework to guide, guide, coordinate and support water research, development and innovation collaboration with the



DELEGATION FROM VARIOUS KEY STAKEHOLDERS



Questions & Answer Session: DWS Mpumalanga Proncial Head Ms. Dudu Sifunda participates in a question and answer session



Support: Mr.Sydney Dhlamini of KOBWA hails the partnership as a vital step toward achieving the National Development Plan 2030's water goals.

knowledge sharing of existing knowledge and information, generation of new research and innovation products that will contribute towards building greater water sector capabilities, as well as finding sustainable solutions to the water challenges experienced by the province."

The UMP Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC) for Research, Innovation and Internalisation, Professor Aldo Stroebel, excitedly welcomed the partnership initiative, indicating that being the youngest and still developing university in the country, the UMP has numerous partnerships which have enabled the institution to thrive to reach greater heights. In his address, Professor Stroebel stated that "as strategic partners, these two days will allow us to engage on challenges within the water and sanitation environment together with the experts in our midst." Ms. Dudu Sifunda, Regional Head of the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in Mpumalanga, enthusiastically supported the newly established partnership with the University of Mpumalanga (UMP). She highlighted the significant expectations surrounding the partnership's potential to address critical water-related challenges within Mpumalanga communities.

"We anticipate that UMP will offer a curriculum tailored to the province's water skills needs," Ms. Sifunda noted. "Our goal is for the university to contribute to water research and technology development and establish state-of-the-art water

research laboratories. The department currently outsources many of these essential services, and we are optimistic that this partnership will enhance our capacity.

Sydney Dhlamini from the Komati Basin Water Authority (KOBWA) echoed these sentiments, describing the partnership as a significant milestone that will further efforts toward achieving the shared objectives outlined in the National Development Plan 2030. "This collaboration strengthens our commitment to improving water accessibility and quality," Dhlamini stated, "with a clear vision to meet these essential targets by 2030."

Dr. Nicolette Mhlanga-Ndlovu, the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA), highlighted IUCMA's longstanding collaboration with the Water Research Commission (WRC) on numerous research initiatives. Since its inception, she emphasised that IUCMA has made significant strides in advancing transformation within South Africa's water sector, providing essential insights and driving progress. Dr. Mhlanga-Ndlovu welcomed the new partnership warmly, affirming IUCMA's commitment to continue supporting the WRC's mission and mandate.

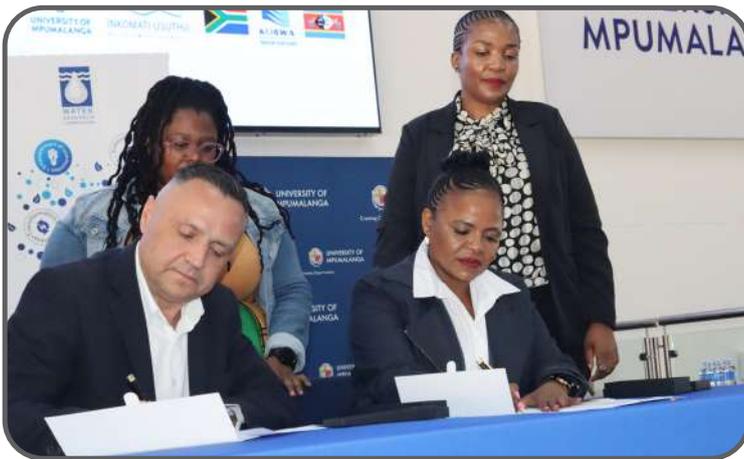
The partnership agreement was signed on both institutions' behalf by Dr. Molwantwa, CEO of the WRC, and Professor Stroebel, DVC for Research, Innovation, and Internationalisation at UMP.



SUPPORT: IUCMA'S Acting Chief Executive Officer Dr Nicollette Mhlanga-Ndlovu giving a message of support during the WRC & UMP partnership formation.



PARTICIPATION: Bishop Mashabane (farmer) participating in a question and answer session



SIGNING OF THE MOU: MOU signing by UMP DVC and WRC CEO DR Jenifer

PARTNERS



STATES



PRESENTATION: Mr. Thapelo Beja from Enviro Options presenting about sustainable projects done by Enviro Options.

Water

saving tips



Kettles should
not be filled

to the brim but with just enough water for your needs. This will reduce your electricity bill too.



Taking a bath can use between

80 and 150

litres of water per bath.



Do not overfill

containers like pots, as this may result in using more energy to heat the water.



Fix a **leaking toilet** otherwise it can waste up to

100 000 litres

of water in one year.



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IUCMA LAUNCHES YOUNG WATER PROFESSIONALS STRUCTURE



Mr Sizile Mnisi
*Office of the Executive Water
Resource Management*

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), in collaboration with the Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA), Rand Water, Lepelle Northern Water, and successfully hosted a two-day meeting that culminated in the establishment of the Young Water Professionals (YWP) structure in Mpumalanga Province. This initiative marks a significant step toward empowering youth in the water sector.

Mr Moshakga Maphaha, a senior official from the DWS head office, outlined the vision, aims, and objectives of the YWP structure. He highlighted the strategic importance of Mpumalanga Province and the pivotal role of IUCMA in contributing to the national YWP structure.

The primary objective of the meeting was to form interim committees for IUCMA and DWS Mpumalanga region, which will later submit their representatives to the national YWP structure. Chairing the session, Mr. Maphaha called for a list of young employees affiliated with the YWP and the South African Water and Sanitation Youth Network Forum (SAWSYNF).

Youth Development Pillars

Mr. Maphaha elaborated on five critical pillars that form the foundation of youth development in the water sector:

1. **Education and Training**—Focusing on equipping youth with skills and knowledge to navigate the challenging economy.
2. **Employment Creation**—Providing opportunities for job shadowing, internships, Youth Employment Services (YES), and permanent employment.
3. **Economic Transformation**—Empowering youth to participate in a more inclusive and sustainable economy.
4. **Social Cohesion and Interdependent Governance**—Promoting unity, collaboration, and effective governance to tackle water conservation and pollution issues.

5. **Entrepreneurship**—Encouraging innovation and supporting youth-led businesses in the water sector.

These pillars were thoroughly discussed with IUCMA and DWS officials, guiding how the interim committees could apply them to address challenges in their water management domains.

New Leadership Appointments

The meeting resulted in the nomination of four individuals to represent the IUCMA and DWS Mpumalanga region in the YWP and SAWSYNF committees. The appointed leaders for IUCMA are:

Young Water Professionals (YWP):

- o Chairperson: Mr. Zomakahle Ndlovu
- o Deputy Chairperson: Ms. Zandile Tibane

South African Water and Sanitation Youth Network Forum (SAWSYNF):

- o Chairperson: Mr. Siphamandla Mchunu
- o Deputy Chairperson: Ms. Miranda Matsane

For the DWS, the leadership structure includes:

Young Water Professionals (YWP):

- o Chairperson: Ms. Nobuhle Mahlangu
- o Deputy Chairperson: Ms. Mmabatho Faith Mogakane

South African Water and Sanitation Youth Network Forum (SAWSYNF):

- o Chairperson: Ms. Maeko Mokgadi
- o Deputy Chairperson: Mr. Lufuno Munzhelele

Insights from Established Structures

Rand Water's representative, Ms. Danisile Ndlovu, shared valuable insights into their established YWP and SAWSYNF structures. She emphasised the importance of strategic partnerships and funding mechanisms that ensure operational sustainability. Ms Ndlovu acknowledged the challenges faced since the inception of their structures but highlighted notable successes, demonstrating the potential for similar achievements in Mpumalanga.

She also addressed balancing committee responsibilities with professional duties, ensuring effective functioning without compromising job performance.

Promoting Inclusivity and Collaboration

The Chairperson of the session emphasised the importance of inclusivity in the YWP and SAWSYNF structures. He urged the committees to incorporate previously disadvantaged groups, including women, youth, and people with disabilities, to foster equitable representation and smooth operation. Additionally, he highlighted that the success of these structures would depend on collaboration with stakeholders beyond IUCMA and DWS.

Establishing the YWP structure in Mpumalanga is a promising initiative to nurture young talent and address pressing water sector challenges, paving the way for a sustainable future.



IUCMA WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CHARGES

SECTOR	2025/26 APPROVED TARIFFS (PER M/3)
Domestic and Industry	5.48 c
Irrigation	2.70 c
Forestry	2.15 c
Waste Discharge Charge System (WDCS)	5.45 c

Enquiries can be directed to Ms. W. Mabuza at telephone number 083 645 9059 or by electronic mail at mabuzaw@iucma.co.za.

For more info visit www.iucma.co.za



WATER RESTRICTIONS

IMPOSED IN THE CROCODILE RIVER CATCHMENT

The Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA) has announced immediate restrictions on water abstraction in the Crocodile River Catchment, including its tributaries. This decision, guided by Section 6(1) of Schedule 3 of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998), responds to critical water shortages affecting the Mpumalanga Lowveld region.

The restrictions encompass the Crocodile River and its tributaries, including Alexanderspruit, Blinkwater, Buffelskloof, Elands, Gladdespruit, Gutshwa, Houtbosloop, Lunsklip, Nels, Nsikazi, Stads, Sand River, Sterkspruit, Valyspruit, Vissipruit, Kaap River, White River, and Zongagskraal Rivers. Water abstraction from any surface resource or dam within these catchments is regulated.

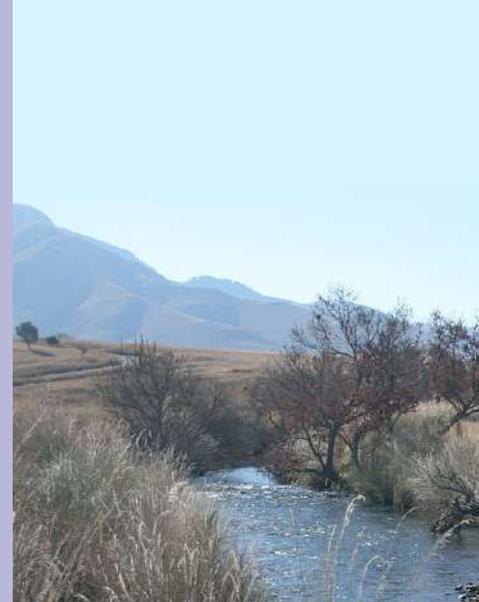
The IUCMA, established under Section 78 of the National Water Act, protects, conserves, and manages water resources within the Inkomati-Usuthu Water Management Area. The agency can impose temporary restrictions during water shortages to ensure equitable access and ecological sustainability.

Current Water Crisis

Below-average rainfall and exceptionally high temperatures have led to critically low river flow levels in the Crocodile River and its tributaries. Declining levels in the Kwena Dam compound the situation under IUCMA's management. Since 27 November 2024, the agency has released 7.5 m³/s from Kwena Dam to stabilise the system, significantly depleting the dam's reserves. To address the crisis, IUCMA has implemented the following measures:

Domestic Use:

- A mandatory 10% reduction in lawful water use allocations.
- Cease irrigation of gardens by private homeowners and businesses.
- Compliance with regulations, ensuring 30% of incoming flow





passes downstream.

Agricultural Use:

- A 35% reduction in lawful water use allocations for irrigation.
- Users must ensure downstream flow for ecological and equitable access, with at least 30% of water passing through abstraction points unless otherwise determined.
- Dams must maintain reserves for essential uses, such as domestic needs, livestock, and ecological requirements.

The IUCMA will closely monitor the situation; all water users are urged to adhere to these restrictions. Unlawful water abstraction and storage are strictly prohibited, with legal action possible for non-compliance.

If Kwena Dam's levels drop below 55%, agricultural restrictions will escalate to 60%. Similarly, domestic restrictions will increase to 20% if the dam's volume falls below 40%.

These measures are vital to preserving the region's water resources and ensuring equitable access for all stakeholders. The IUCMA will continue to communicate updates and adjustments as conditions evolve.

For more information, visit www.iucma.co.za

ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE SAND MINING THE KOMATI CATCHMENT

A workshop was convened in November 2024 to address the ongoing challenges of sand mining in the Komati Catchment. Despite earlier efforts in 2020 to educate communities on the issue, no significant improvements were observed. This workshop, initiated by concerned irrigators in collaboration with the national water department and catchment system operators, sought to promote the sustainable use of natural resources and raise awareness about the environmental and social impacts of sand mining activities.

Presentations by key stakeholders provided insight into the multifaceted challenges and potential solutions. The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) highlighted its mandate to regulate, enforce compliance, and ensure sustainable water use in line with national legislation. It was explained that sand mining, if unregulated, can result in severe consequences such as erosion, salination, destruction of aquifers, and disruption of ecosystems. These impacts threaten livelihoods by undermining water supply, food production, and other critical sectors like fisheries and tourism. However, the department emphasised that its objective is not to ban sand mining outright but to promote sustainable practices that balance environmental preservation with economic development. Stakeholders were reminded of the importance of applying for water use authorisations to ensure accountability and minimise adverse impacts.

The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) outlined its role in formalising and supporting the artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) sector. It was acknowledged that the industry remains largely informal, despite its potential to contribute significantly to job creation and economic growth. Challenges such as compliance with legal requirements, access to finance, and the prevalence of illegal mining were noted. DMRE reaffirmed its commitment to addressing these issues through a dedicated policy framework and institutional support mechanisms. The department's efforts include strengthening laws to combat illegal mining, establishing specialised investigative units, and promoting the inclusion of youth, women, and persons with disabilities in the mining sector.

The Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA) provided further insight into the impacts of sand mining, which include the degradation of watercourses, siltation, and disruptions to aquatic ecosystems. These activities often lead to infrastructure damage, such as destruction of bridges and clogging of water abstraction pumps, directly affecting farmers and municipalities. To mitigate these impacts, the IUCMA underscored the necessity of obtaining water use authorisations, which ensure that mining activities are conducted responsibly and sustainably.

Throughout the workshop, the recurring theme was the need for stakeholder cooperation to achieve sustainable development. By adhering to lawful processes and prioritising environmental stewardship, balancing economic aspirations with preserving natural resources is possible. Participants were reminded that the region's water resources must be managed judiciously to ensure their availability for future generations.

As the workshop concluded, stakeholders were urged to commit to sustainable practices and compliance with national laws. The collective goal remains inclusive economic growth, enhanced livelihoods, and the long-term protection of the environment. A poignant reminder aptly summarised the sentiment, "We do not have another planet to go to, so we must make this work."



**Illegal Sand Mining
in a watercourse is an
offense and is prohibited**

To report please call IUCMA @ 013 753 9000



WETLANDS

ARE HABITATS OF ANIMALS,
AND A NATURAL STORAGE
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CONSERVE THEM

Be responsible and take care of the Environment

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SPOTLIGHT ON THE 2023 TVET LEARNERSHIP COHORT



Ms Charmaine Zulu
Communication & Intergovernmental

The Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA) remains committed to nurturing the potential of young professionals through its learnership and internship programmes. This initiative made possible through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Ehlanzeni TVET College, aims to bridge the gap between academic training and workplace readiness. In May 2024, IUCMA proudly welcomed a cohort of TVET learners who brought fresh perspectives, enthusiasm, and a drive to succeed in their respective fields. Their time during the 18-month journey at IUCMA has not only enriched their professional journeys but has also contributed meaningfully to the organisation's goals

Voices from the Learners



Khanyisile Costance Nkosi

- Qualification: National N Diploma in Financial Management
- Division: Revenue Intern
- Institution: Ehlanzeni TVET College

Khanyisile reflected on her 18 months in the Revenue Division, noting the transformative impact of her internship. She completed SAP training and earned four certifications in Billing and Invoicing, Cash Management, Debt Collection, and SAP Navigation. This equipped her with payment allocation, invoicing, customer statement generation, and query resolution skills. "I'm grateful for the experience and skills I gained at IUCMA," she shared.



Gracious Kamogelo Mehlope

- Qualification: National N Diploma in Finance Management
- Division: Finance Intern
- Institution: Ehlanzeni TVET College

Gracious highlighted the invaluable insights she gained into financial strategies and operations. "This experience deepened my understanding of how financial frameworks support organisational success. Working closely with diverse teams enhanced my skills in financial analysis," she remarked.



Nondumiso Immaculate Ngelosi Mkhabela

- Qualification: National N Diploma in Human Resource Management
- Division: Human Resources Intern
- Institution: Ehlanzeni TVET College



Sthembile Myles Ntimane

- Qualification: Public Management
- Division: Records & Auxiliary Intern
- Institution: Ehlanzeni TVET College

Sthembile emphasised the invaluable skills acquired during her internship. "This role prepared me for a career in records management and instilled a deeper appreciation for making a positive impact through learning opportunities," she explained.



Ayanda Prayers Mndlovu

- Qualification: National N Diploma in Human Resource Management
- Division: Human Resources Intern
- Institution: Nkangala TVET College

Ayanda shared how her internship broadened her understanding of human resource practices. "I learned about employee engagement, recruitment strategies, and workplace culture. This experience will undoubtedly guide my future in human resources," she noted.

Recognising Intern Contributions

Supervisors at IUCMA expressed their appreciation for the dedication and achievements of the interns.

Senior Accountant Simphiwe Mokoena commended Kamogelo Mehlaphe, stating, "Mehlaphe's computer proficiency, time management, and communication skills allowed her to excel. Her inquisitive nature and

ability to integrate with the team were remarkable. If possible, I would gladly recommend her for permanent placement."

Revenue Officer Zanele Hlophe praised Khanyisile Nkosi for her dedication. "Khanyi has a bold character and a strong work ethic. Her eagerness to learn and her impactful contributions to the division were commendable. I am confident she has a bright future ahead," Zanele shared.

The IUCMA celebrates the efforts and growth of these learners, acknowledging their contributions and wishing them success in their future endeavours. IUCMA continues to foster talent and empower the next generation of professionals through initiatives like this.

INKOMATI USUTHU CMA'S LEGISLATIVE MANDATE AND POWERS EXPLAINED



Mr S'phamandla Mchunu
Legal Advisor

The Inkomati Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA) operates as a cornerstone of water resource management in South Africa. Established in 2006, the agency derives its authority from South Africa's Constitution and the National Water Act, ensuring the sustainable and equitable use of water resources for current and future generations.

Constitutional and Legislative Foundations

The IUCMA's mandate is firmly rooted in the principles of the Constitution, particularly Sections 24 and 27. Section 24 protects the right to an environment that benefits present and future generations, while Section 27 ensures access to sufficient water. These provisions form the foundation of the IUCMA's actions.

The National Water Act serves as the primary legislative framework guiding the IUCMA's operations. The Act emphasises equitable access, sustainability, and the protection of aquatic ecosystems. These principles enable the agency to promote water conservation while addressing historical inequalities.

Functions and Delegated Powers

When the IUCMA was established under Section 80 of the National Water Act, it was tasked with developing a Catchment Management Strategy (CMS), advising institutions, and fostering public participation in water resource management. In March 2023, the Minister expanded the IUCMA's role by delegating additional powers, solidifying its position as the leading authority in water management within its jurisdiction.

A clear distinction exists between delegations and assignments. Delegations allow the IUCMA to act on behalf of the Minister, while assignments grant the agency-specific responsibilities directly. These arrangements empower the IUCMA to regulate water use, enforce conservation measures, and oversee water quality monitoring.

Protecting and Managing Resources

The IUCMA holds extensive responsibilities under Chapter 3 of the National Water Act, including pollution prevention and managing emergencies that may affect water quality. Chapter 4 further equips the agency with powers to regulate water use by issuing

permits and enforcing compliance within its catchment area.

Monitoring and Public Awareness

The IUCMA actively collects and analyses data to support its water management functions. Section 141 of the National Water Act authorises the agency to monitor water quality and assess risks related to floods and droughts. This information is made publicly available under Section 145, promoting transparency and community awareness.

By establishing early warning systems, the IUCMA ensures that communities receive timely alerts about potential water-related risks, reinforcing its commitment to proactive resource management.

Community Participation

A hallmark of the IUCMA's work is its emphasis on public participation. The agency collaborates with municipalities, water users, and other stakeholders to foster inclusivity in decision-making processes. This approach ensures that diverse voices contribute to sustainable water governance.

Conclusion

The legislative framework guiding the IUCMA equips it to manage water resources effectively, balancing ecological protection with equitable use. Delegated powers from the Minister allow the agency to regulate water use, prevent pollution, and engage communities in participatory processes. Through these efforts, the IUCMA remains steadfast in its mission to secure water resources for generations to come.

River Operations Web Portal

River Operations Web Portal

The Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency is committed to bring you all the information you need to enable you to use water wisely and considerably. The IUCMA has established a web portal for River Operations that brings you the daily flows of the water in the Catchment. To gain access to this information, please log on to

<http://riverops.inkomaticma.co.za/>



River Operations Web Portal

CAREER GUIDANCE

FOR LEARNERS IN WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



*Ms Ntokoza Shongwe
Institutions & Participation*

The Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA) is an agency that has been established in terms of the relevant section of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998. The IUCMA has been established by the National Department of Water Affairs (DWA) in terms of the Act, to specifically implement certain sections of the Act. The mentioned sections of the Act address the management, protection, development and prevention of pollution of the national water resources.

The IUCMA is the first agency to be established by the DWA in the Mpumalanga area. The IUCMA has the responsibility to protect and manage the Crocodile River, Sabie, Inkomati Rivers and their tributaries within the Inkomati Water Management Area.

Career options and study opportunities in the form of financial assistance are offered by IUCMA. Since the IUCMA is a science focused institution, subject choices during high school should include science, geographical sciences, biological sciences and mathematics.

The breakdown of career choices offered by the IUCMA is indicated below:

1. Water Resource Specialist/Manager

Academic qualifications:

- 1.1. Bachelor of Science degree in (Aquaculture; Biology; Chemistry; Chemical Engineering; Biochemistry; Microbiology, Limnology; Zoology; Botany; Civil Engineering)
- 1.2. Bachelor of Science in Environmental Sciences (Geography; Geographical Information System; Geology)
- 1.3. Bachelor of Technology Water Care
- 1.4. Bachelor of Technology Analytical Chemistry

2. Hydrologist

Academic qualification:

- 2.1. Bachelor of Science (Hydrology; Hydrological Modelling; Water Quality Modelling)

3. Aquatic scientist

Academic qualification:

- 3.1. Bachelor of Science (River Health; Aquaculture; Bio-monitoring; Water and Waste Water; Water Quality Management; Zoology; botany; Limnology)

4. Water Resources Planners

Academic qualification:

- 4.1. Bachelor of Science/Engineering (Water Engineering; Chemical; Waste Water Treatment; Water Resources Modelling)

5. Water Resources Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement

Academic qualifications:

- 5.1. Bachelor of Science degree in (Biology; Chemistry; Chemical Engineering; Biochemistry; Microbiology, Environmental Law; Hydrology; Geohydrology; Civil Engineering)

- 5.2. Bachelor of Science in Environmental Sciences in (Geography; Environmental Law, Geographical Information System)

- 5.3. Law degree (Environmental Law)

6. Geohydrologist

Academic qualifications:

- 6.1. Bachelor of Science (Hydro-geology; Hydrology)

- 6.2. Bachelor of Technology (Geo-hydrology; Hydrology; Water Resources Modelling; Water Quality Management)

7. Stakeholder Management

Academic Qualifications:

- 7.1. Bachelor of Arts (Developmental Studies; Public Administration; Public Management; Social Studies)

- 7.2. Bachelor of Technology (Developmental Studies; Public Administration; Public Management)

LIST OF SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES

EASTERN CAPE



RHODES UNIVERSITY
Where leaders learn

Tel: 046 603 8148
Website: www.ru.ac.za
Email: registration@ru.ac.za

NELSON MANDELA
UNIVERSITY

Tel: 041 504 1111
Website: www.mandela.ac.za
Email: info@mandela.ac.za



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

Tel: 040 653 2312
Website: www.ufh.ac.za
Email: admissions@ufh.ac.za



Tel: 047 502 2200
Website: www.wsu.ac.za
Email: postmaster@wsu.ac.za

**“For more Universities
view page 36 and 37”**

LIMPOPO



University of Venda
Creating Future Leaders

Tel: 015 962 8000
Website: www.univen.ac.za
Email: info@univen.ac.za



Tel: 015 268 9111
Website: www.ul.ac.za
Email: enrolment@ul.ac.za



FREE STATE



**Central University of
Technology, Free State**

Tel: 051 507 3911
Website: www.cut.ac.za
Email: tomtomple@cut.ac.za



Tel: 051 401 2114
Website: www.ufs.ac.za
Email: Studentadmin@ufs.ac.za



KWAZULU NATAL



Tel: 031 373 2411
Website: www.dut.ac.za
Email: info@dut.ac.za



Tel: 031 260 2227
Website: www.unizulu.ac.za
Email: enquiries@ukzn.ac.za



NORTH WEST



Tel: 018 299 1111/2222
Website: www.nwu.ac.za
Email: applicationsug@nwu.ac.za



**UNIVERSITY OF
ZULULAND**

Tel: 035 902 6000
Website: www.ukzn.ac.za
Email: info@unizulu.ac.za



Tel: 031 907 7111
Website: www.mut.ac.za
Email: info@mut.ac.za



MPUMALANGA



**UNIVERSITY OF
MPUMALANGA**

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GAUTENG



Tel: 011 717 1102
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Tel: 012 429 3111
Website: www.unisa.ac.za
Email: study-info@unisa.ac.za



Tel: 021 382 5911
Website: www.tut.ac.za
Email: info@ump.ac.za



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UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
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VUT
Vaal University of Technology
Your world to a better future

Tel: 016 950 9214/5
Website: www.vut.ac.za
Email: reception@vut.ac.za



UNIVERSITY
OF
JOHANNESBURG

Tel: 011 489 3000
Website: www.uj.ac.za
Email: mylife@uj.ac.za

WESTERN CAPE



UNIVERSITY of the
WESTERN CAPE

Tel: 021 959 3900
Website: www.uwc.ac.za
Email: admissions@uwc.ac.za



Tel: 021 650 9111
Website: www.uct.ac.za
Email: admissions@uct.ac.za

NORTHERN CAPE



SOL PLAATJE
UNIVERSITY

Tel: 018 299 1111/2222
Website: www.nwu.ac.za
Email: information@spu.ac.za



Tel: 021 808 9111
Website: www.sun.ac.za
Email: info@sun.ac.za



Tel: 021 959 3900
Website: www.cput.ac.za
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