



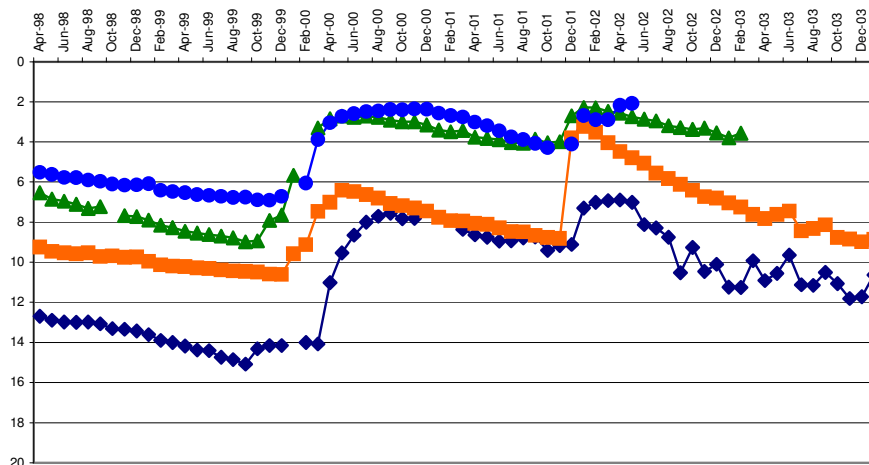
water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

LIMPOPO REGION

DIRECTORATE WATER REGULATION AND USE

STATUS REPORT ON MONITORING & GROUNDWATER LEVEL TRENDS FEBRUARY 2009 – FEBRUARY 2010



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1) EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Groundwater levels

Water level values for 1 February 2009 (corresponding time last year), 1 November 2009 (Start of the current wet season) and 1 February 2010 (Midway through the current wet season) are used for comparison in this report.

No new stations were added the past quarter and there are still 165 reference monitoring stations distributed across Limpopo. 158 were visited and data downloaded during February 2010. 5 stations were inaccessible due to extreme wet conditions, 1 has caved in and still has to be re-drilled. The remaining 1 is on private property and access is not always possible due to a locked gate. The 30 Special purpose monitoring stations (Projects) must still be visited and data downloaded (**MAPS 1 & 2**)

Only the data for stations on the permanent reference network located outside the Kruger Park is used for reporting.

- Active stations = 165
- Stations visited and included in this report = 158.
- Stations inaccessible due to wet conditions = 5
- Other access problems = 2
- Visited stations in A2 drainage not included in this report = 2

Comparison of water levels with the previous quarter: (November 2009 to February 2010)

Stations with data for the whole period available = 147/158 (89.09% of stations visited)

	No of stations	% of stations With data	Average
Water level down more than 1 m	1	0.68%	
Water level down less than 1m	47	31.97%	-0.13m
Water levels up more than 1m	28	19.05%	2.57
Water levels up less than 1m	71	48.3%	0.44
No difference in water level	0		
Total	147	100%	

The table above reflects the situation from the start to midway of the current wet season. A rise in water levels is seen at 99 stations (67.35% of stations) indicating some recharge thus far at these stations. The rise is mostly limited with an overall average of 1m. At the other 48 stations (32.65%) water levels are still declining very slightly with an average of around 15cm overall.

Comparison of water levels with the corresponding time last year: (February 2009 to February 2010)

Stations with data for the whole period available = 137/158 (83.03% of stations visited)

	No of stations	% of stations	Average
Water level down more than 1 m	13	9.49%	-1.86m
Water level down less than 1m	64	46.72%	-0.37m
Water levels up more than 1m	18	13.14%	3.14
Water levels up less than 1m	42	30.66%	0.42
No difference in water level			
Total	137	100%	

The current water level situation compared to the corresponding time last year indicate that there are more stations with lower water levels, 77 stations, than that with higher water levels, 60 stations. Despite a measure of recharge as indicated by the first table, there are still more stations with lower water levels than this time last year. The fluctuations up or down, are mostly not large and the overall situation indicates an insignificant 15cm improvement in water levels.

Looking at the overall picture is misleading as the number of lower and higher water levels is not spread evenly across the whole area. Some areas may indicate mostly higher levels while the lower water levels may be concentrated in another area.

Map 4 illustrates the data from November 2009 to February 2010. It can be seen that recharge, were mostly limited to the southern and eastern part of the Province.

Map 5 illustrates the data from February 2009 to February 2010, comparing the situation with last year. It is not possible to define areas with predominant lower or higher water levels per drainage area. Monitoring in the A4 and A5 drainages is fairly new and hardly any data for a whole year is available yet. The situation differs in different parts for the other drainage.

An Attempt was made to delineate water level behavior patterns and is depicted on **(Map 6)** The northern part of the Province is mostly worse off than last year as indicated by the red hashed polygon. The polygon encloses 60 stations with data for the past year of which 54 have lower water levels. As is the case for the past couple of years, there is an area within the A9 drainage where water levels are constantly declining faster than elsewhere. The Blue hatched polygon encloses 58 stations of which 51 have higher water levels.

2) STATUS OF MONITORING NETWORK

No new stations were equipped and the Limpopo Province's Groundwater Level Monitoring Network still consists of 199 active monitoring stations, including 34 in the KNP. 2 Caved in boreholes still have to be re-drilled, 17 new boreholes are planned to be drilled additionally to fill gaps in the existing network and 7 existing boreholes are targeted for possible inclusion in the network. **(Maps 1 & 2)**

158 Reference monitoring stations were visited during February 2010 and the data downloaded from loggers. Data collected at these 158 were used for this report. Data for the 2 stations in the A2 drainage were not included.

Site preparation for the phase 2 upgrading of existing stations and delivering of concrete outer rings to stations continued and construction of the concrete structures were completed at 3 stations as trail run. Construction continues.

Regional and Head Office jointly service a total of 55 stations for the National Groundwater Quality Program in the Limpopo Province which is sampled bi-annually. Sampling to verify the suitability of selected sites for extension of the National Groundwater Quality Monitoring continues **(Map 3)**

3) DATA COLLECTION, EVALUATION AND REPORTING

Data was collected during February 2010. The water level used for 1 February 2010 represents midway into the current wet season. Comparisons were drawn between 1 February 2009, (Corresponding period the previous year) 1 November 2009 (Start of the wet season) and 1 February 2010 (Current situation, halfway into the wet season) **(Maps 4 & 5)**

4) LIMPOPO WATER MANAGEMENT AREA.

The area consists of secondary drainage areas A4, A5, A6, A7 and A8.

4.1 A4 Drainage Area. (Matlabas, Mokolo Rivers)

Very little fluctuations in water levels over the past year (**GRAPH 1**)

Comparison with previous levels:

Last quarter; November 2009 to February 2010 (Start to midway of the wet season)

7 Of the 12 stations indicate declining water levels. (**GRAPH 2**)

Past year; February 2009 to February 2010

5 of the 6 Stations with data indicate lower levels over the past year (**GRAPHS 3 &4**)

4.2 A5 Drainage Area. (Lephalale River)

Groundwater levels slowly declining over the past year (**GRAPH 5**)

Comparison with previous levels:

Last quarter; November 2009 to February 2010 (Start to midway of the wet season)

5 of the 7 stations indicate a small decline (**GRAPH 6**)

Past year; February 2009 to February 2010

6 Stations have data for the year with 5 indicating lower levels (**GRAPHS 7 & 8**)

4.3 A6 Drainage Area. (Nile, Sterk, Mogalakwena & Dorps Rivers)

Some recharge evident at most stations since the start of the wet season. (**GRAPH 9**)

Comparison with previous levels:

Last quarter; November 2009 to February 2010 (Start to midway of the wet season)

Data is available for 30 stations. 14 Stations (46.67%) indicate lower and 16 stations (53.33%) higher water levels. Overall an average rise of 0.65m was recorded (**GRAPHS 10 & 11**)

Past year; February 2009 to February 2010

Data is available for 29 stations of which 12 Stations (41.38%) indicate lower water levels than last year and 17 stations (58.62%) indicate a rise in water levels. An overall rise of 0.13m was recorded over the past year. (**GRAPH 11 & 12**)

Current average water levels are just below the long-term average values but 2.66m higher than the maximum average recorded (**GRAPH 13**)

4.4 A7 Drainage Area. (Sand, Blood, Diep, Hout, Dwars & Brak Rivers)

Trends indicate little fluctuation in water levels but a measure of recharge can be noticed at some stations since the start of the wet season (**GRAPH 14**)

Comparison with previous levels:

Last quarter; November 2009 to February 2010 (Start to midway of the wet season)

Data for all 38 stations is available. Only 7 Stations (18.4%) indicate lower, with 31 stations (81.6%) indicating higher water levels. Overall a rise of 0.46m was recorded over the last quarter (**GRAPHS 15&17**).

Past year; February 2009 to February 2010

Data is available for all 38 stations, 17 (44.7%) Indicate lower water levels, average -0.68m. 21 Stations (55.3%) indicate higher water levels, average 1.37m. Overall a rise of 0.46m was recorded for the period (**GRAPHS 16&17**).

Current average water levels are above the long-term average and 3.31m above the lowest average recorded (**GRAPH 18**).

4.5 A8 Drainage Area ((Nwanedzi, Nzhelele Rivers)

Little fluctuation in water levels but some recharge can be noted (**GRAPH 19**)

Comparison with previous levels:

Last quarter; November 2009 to February 2010 (Start to midway of the wet season)

All stations with data for the period indicate higher water levels, average 0.43m (**GRAPHS 20 & 22**).

Past year; February 2009 to February 2010

5 Stations indicate lower and 3 higher water levels (**GRAPHS 21 & 22**).

5) LEVHUVHU-LETABA WATER MANAGEMENT AREA.

The area consists of secondary drainage areas A9, B8 & B9.

5.1 A9 Drainage Area. (Mutale, Levhuvhu Rivers)

Hardy any fluctuation in water levels (**GRAPH 23**).

Comparison with previous levels:

Last quarter; November 2009 to February 2010 (Start to midway of the wet season)

Data is available for all stations, 9 of which indicate lower water levels and 9 higher (**GRAPHS 24 & 26**).

Past year; February 2009 to February 2010

All 18 stations indicates declining water levels for the past year (**GRAPHS 25&26**).

Overall an average decline of 0.72m was recorded over the area the past year.

5.2 B8 Drainage Area. (Groot, Middel & Klein Letaba Rivers)

Groundwater levels generally stable with little fluctuation the past year, (**GRAPH 27**).

Comparison with previous levels:

Last quarter; November 2009 to February 2010 (Start to midway of the wet season)

Data is available for all 14 stations with 3 indicating lower water levels, and 9 higher (GRAPHS 28 & 30)

Past year; February 2009 to February 2010

5 Stations indicate lower water levels, average -0.39m with 7 indicating higher levels, overall a rise of 0.03m was recorded (GRAPHS 27& 30)

5.3 B9 Drainage Area. (Shingwidzi, Mphongolo Rivers)

Hardly any fluctuations in water levels (GRAPH 31)

Comparison with previous levels:

Last quarter; November 2009 to February 2010 (Start to midway of the wet season)

2 stations indicate some rise in water level (GRAPHS 32 & 34).

Past year; February 2009 to February 2010

All 3 stations have lower water levels than the same time last year; average -0.6m (GRAPHS 33 & 34)

6) OLIFANTS WATER MANAGEMENT AREA.

The part of this Water Management Area within the Limpopo Province mostly consists of the B3, B5 & B7 secondary drainage areas.

6.1 B3 Drainage Area. (Elands, Gotwane Rivers (Springbok flats area))

The water levels at Tuinplaas & Settlers kept recovered over the past year (GRAPH 35)

Comparison with previous levels:

Last quarter; November 2009 to February 2010 (Start to midway of the wet season)

2 Of the 3 stations indicate higher levels (GRAPH 36)

Past year; February 2009 to February 2010

All 3 stations indicate higher water levels (GRAPH 37)

The water levels at Settlers and Tuinplaas are well above the worst recorded (GRAPH 38)

6.2 B5 Drainage Area. (Olifants, Nkumpi Rivers)

Some recharge evident over the last period (GRAPH 39)

Comparison with previous levels:

Last quarter; November 2009 to February 2010 (Start to midway of the wet season)

All 7 Stations indicate higher water levels. The water level at B5Byzonderheid does not reflect natural conditions. (GRAPHS 40 & 42)

Past year; February 2009 to February 2010

3 Stations indicate lower water levels than the same time last year and 4 stations indicate higher levels **GRAPHS 41 & 42)**

Current average water levels compare very favorable with long-term average and the lowest average recorded at stations with long-term data **(GRAPH 43)**

6.3 B7 Drainage Area (Olifants, Selati, Klaserie, Makhutswi Rivers)

Stable conditions **(GRAPH 44)**

Comparison with previous levels:

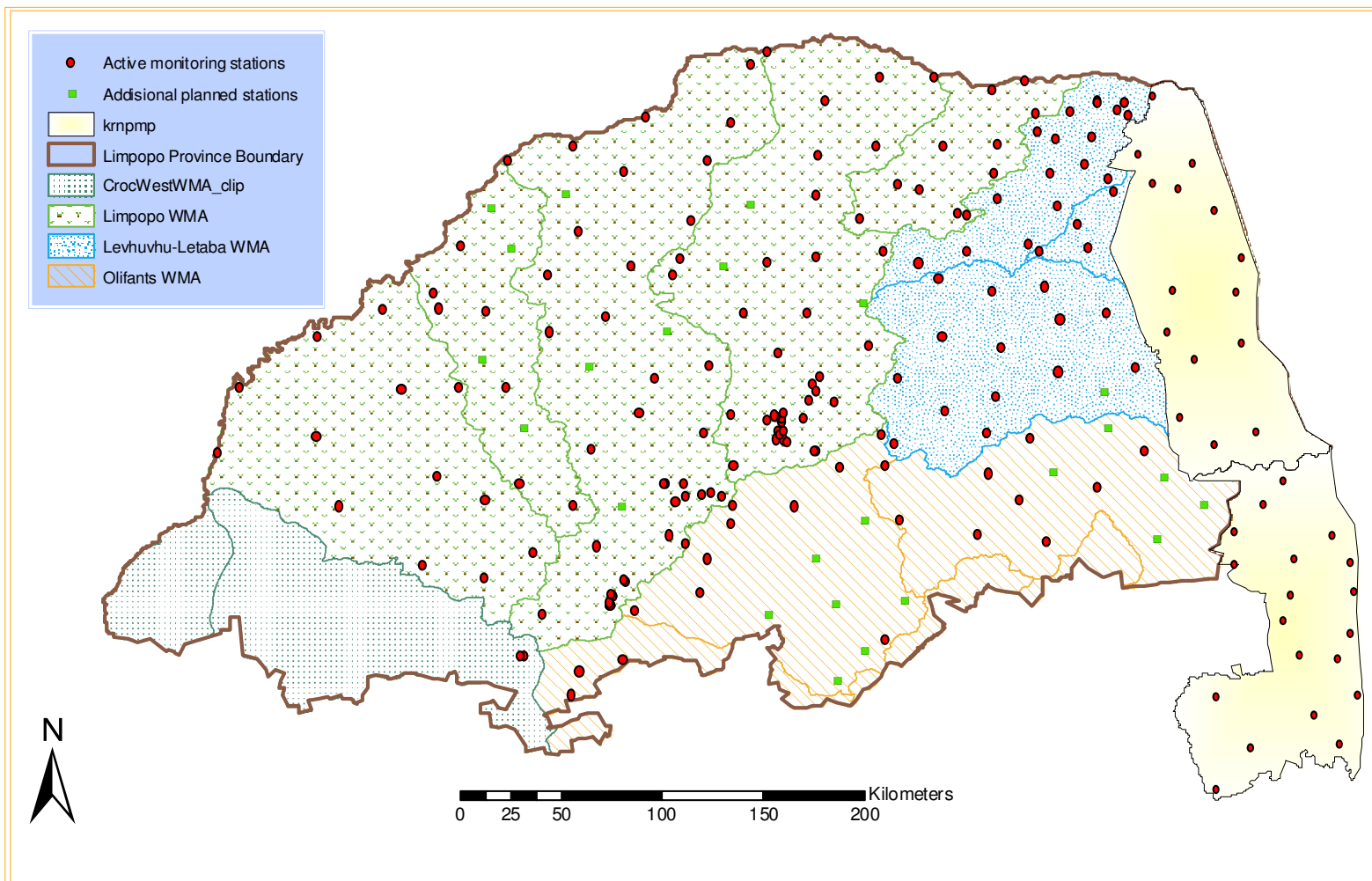
Last quarter; November 2009 to February 2010 (Start to midway of the wet season)

6 Of the 7 stations with data indicate higher water levels **(GRAPHS 45 & 47)**

Past year; February 2009 to February 2010

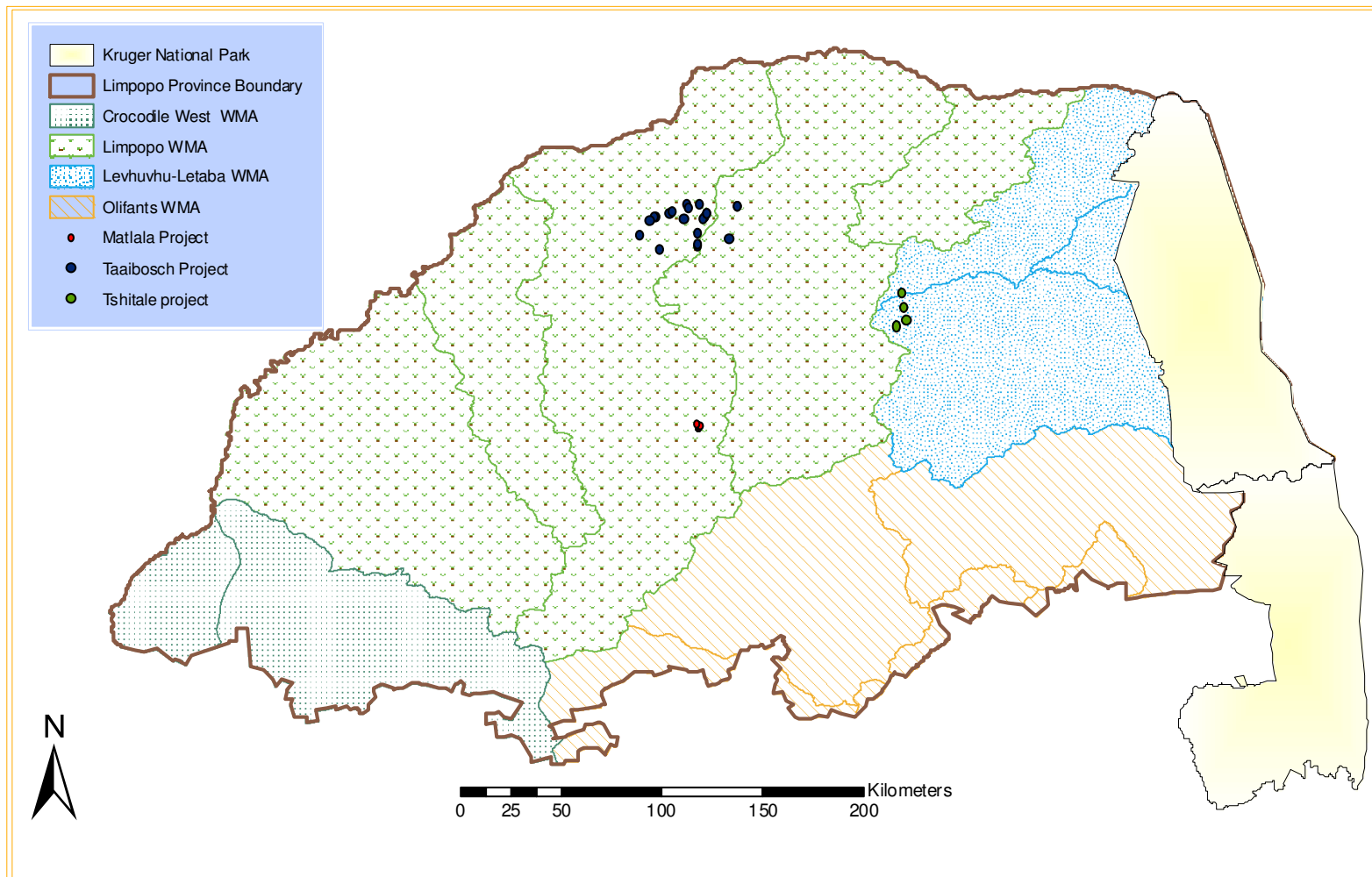
3 Stations indicate higher water levels **(GRAPHS 46 & 47).**

LIMPOPO GROUNDWATER LEVEL MONITORING POSITIONS OF ACTIVE AND PLANNED STATIONS



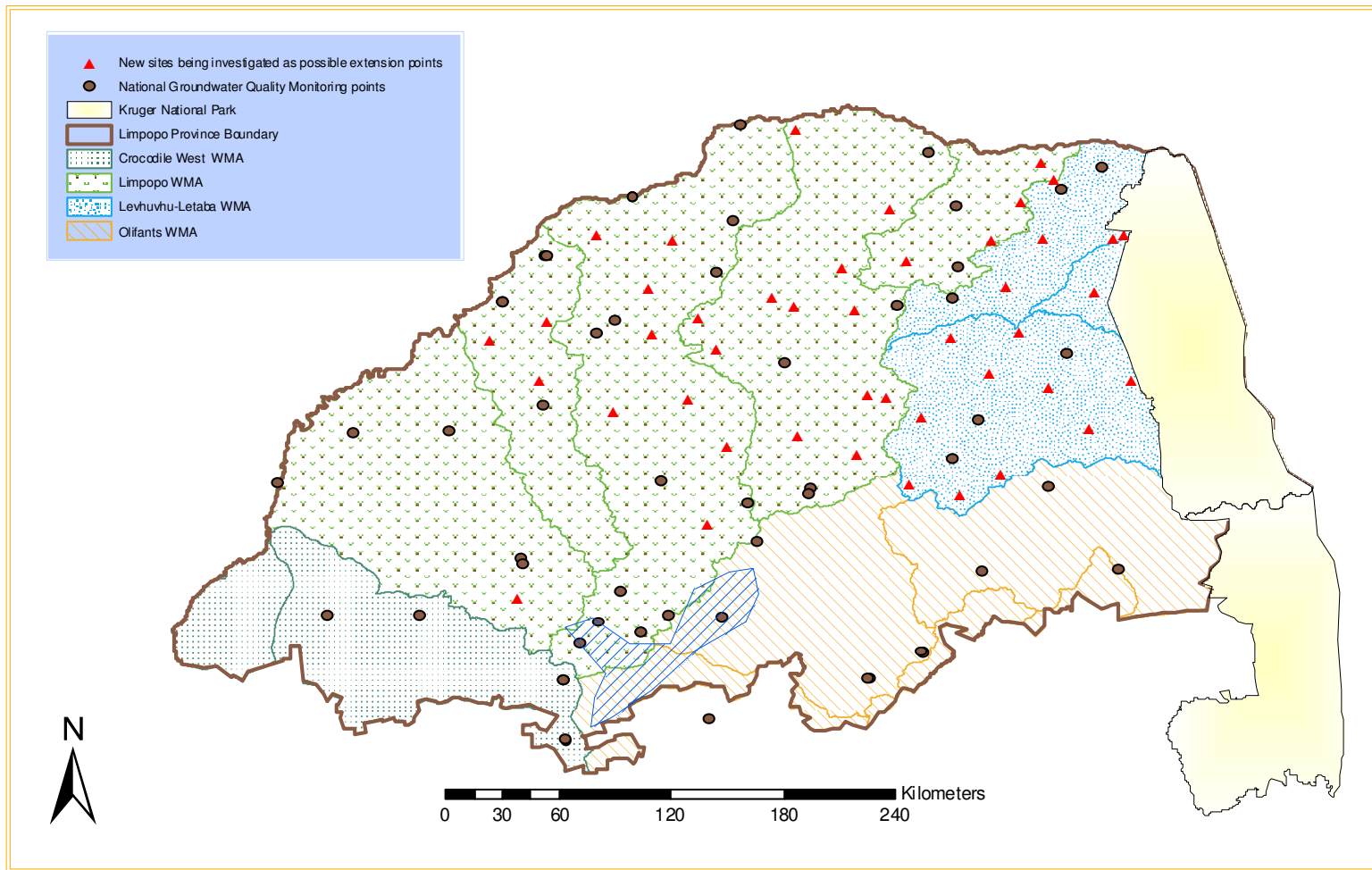
MAP 1

LIMPOPO GROUNDWATER LEVEL MONITORING POSITIONS OF PROJECT MONITORING STATIONS



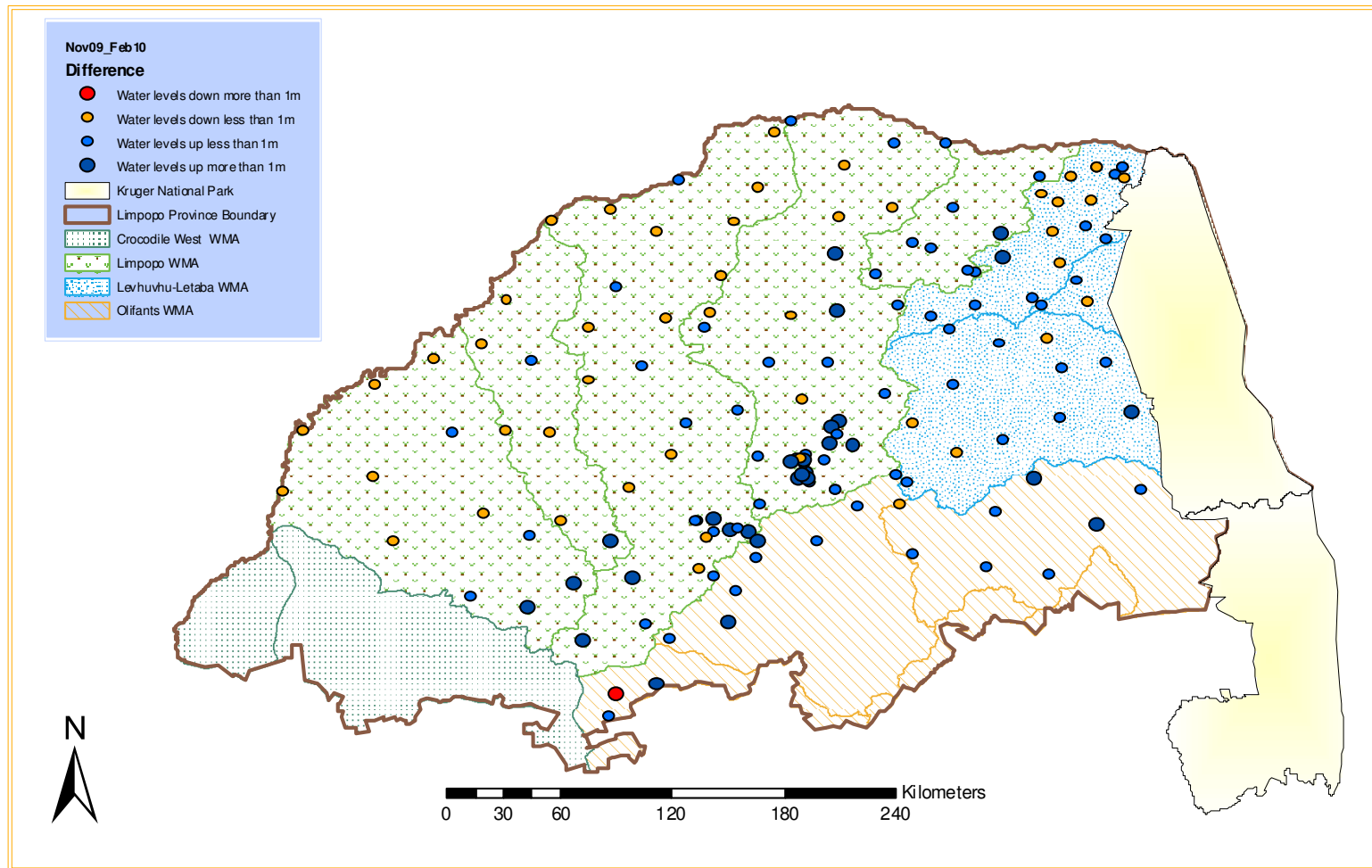
MAP 2

**LIMPOPO GROUNDWATER MONITORING;
POSITIONS OF EXISTING GROUNDWATER QUALITY
MONITORING POINTS AND POSSIBLE NEW ADDITIONAL
SITES BEING EVALUATED**



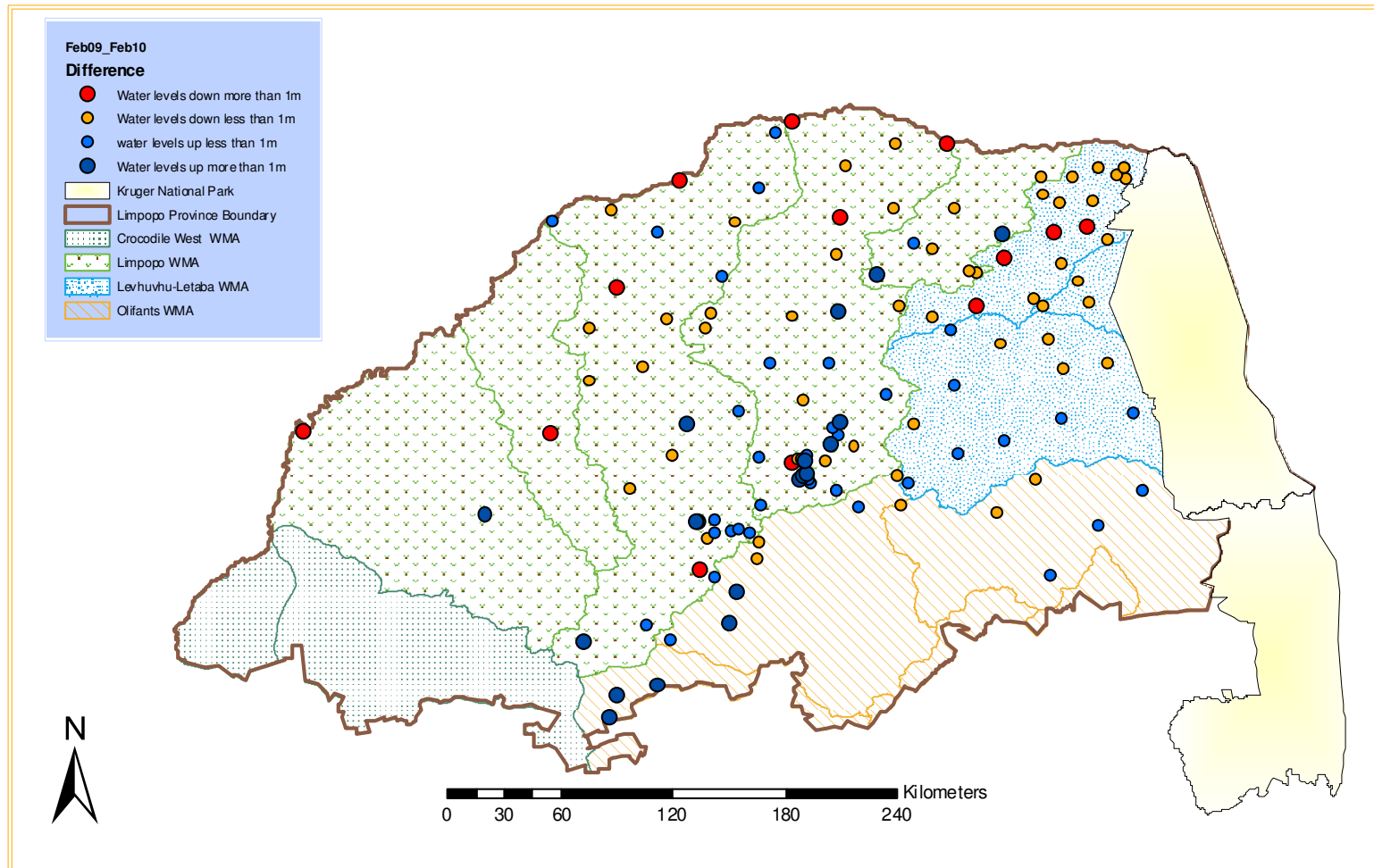
MAP 3

**LIMPOPO GROUNDWATER MONITORING;
DIFFERENCE IN WATER LEVELS,
NOVEMBER 2009 TO FEBRUARY 2010**



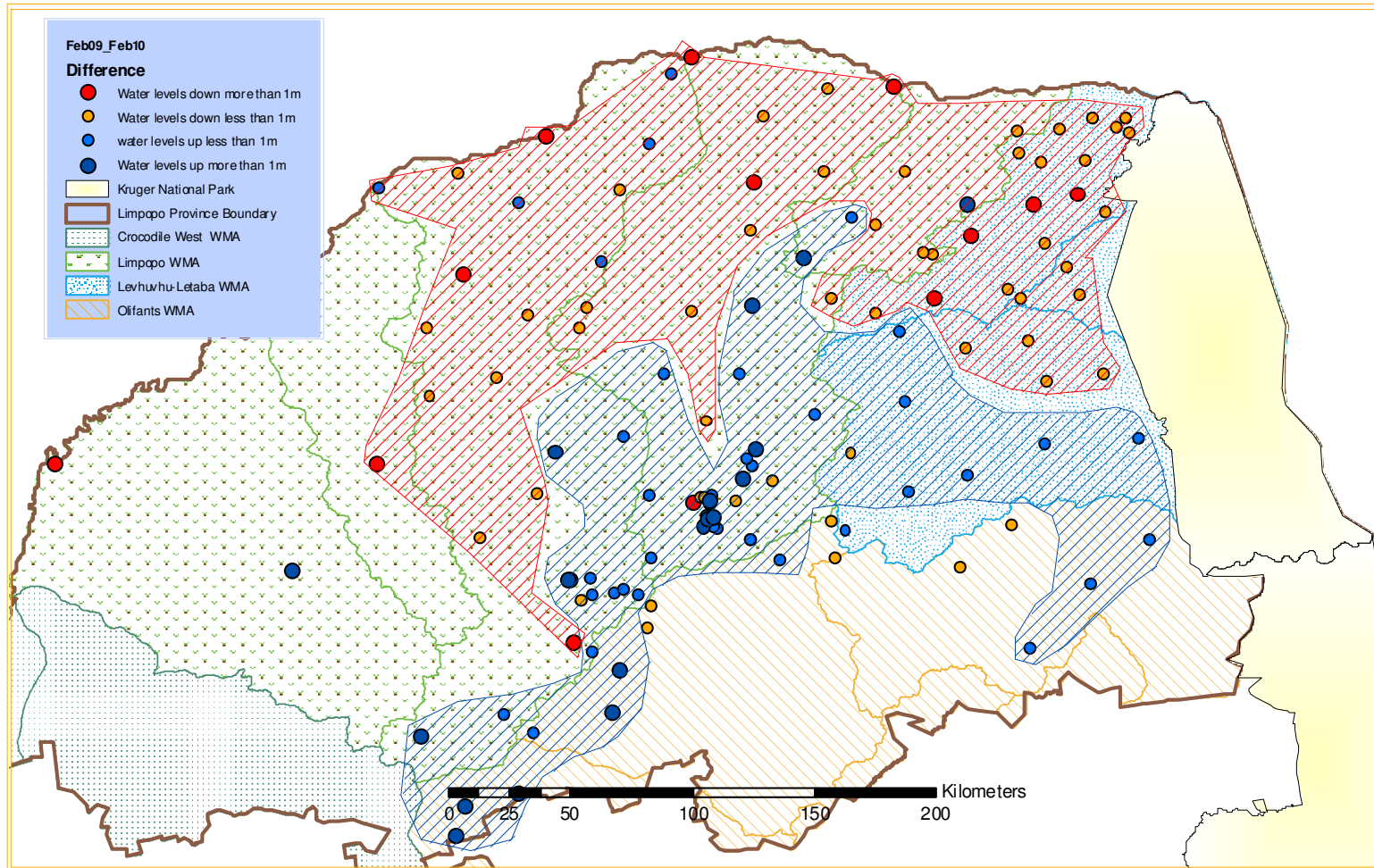
MAP 4

**LIMPOPO GROUNDWATER MONITORING;
DIFFERENCE IN WATER LEVELS,
FEBRUARY 2009 TO FEBRUARY 2010**



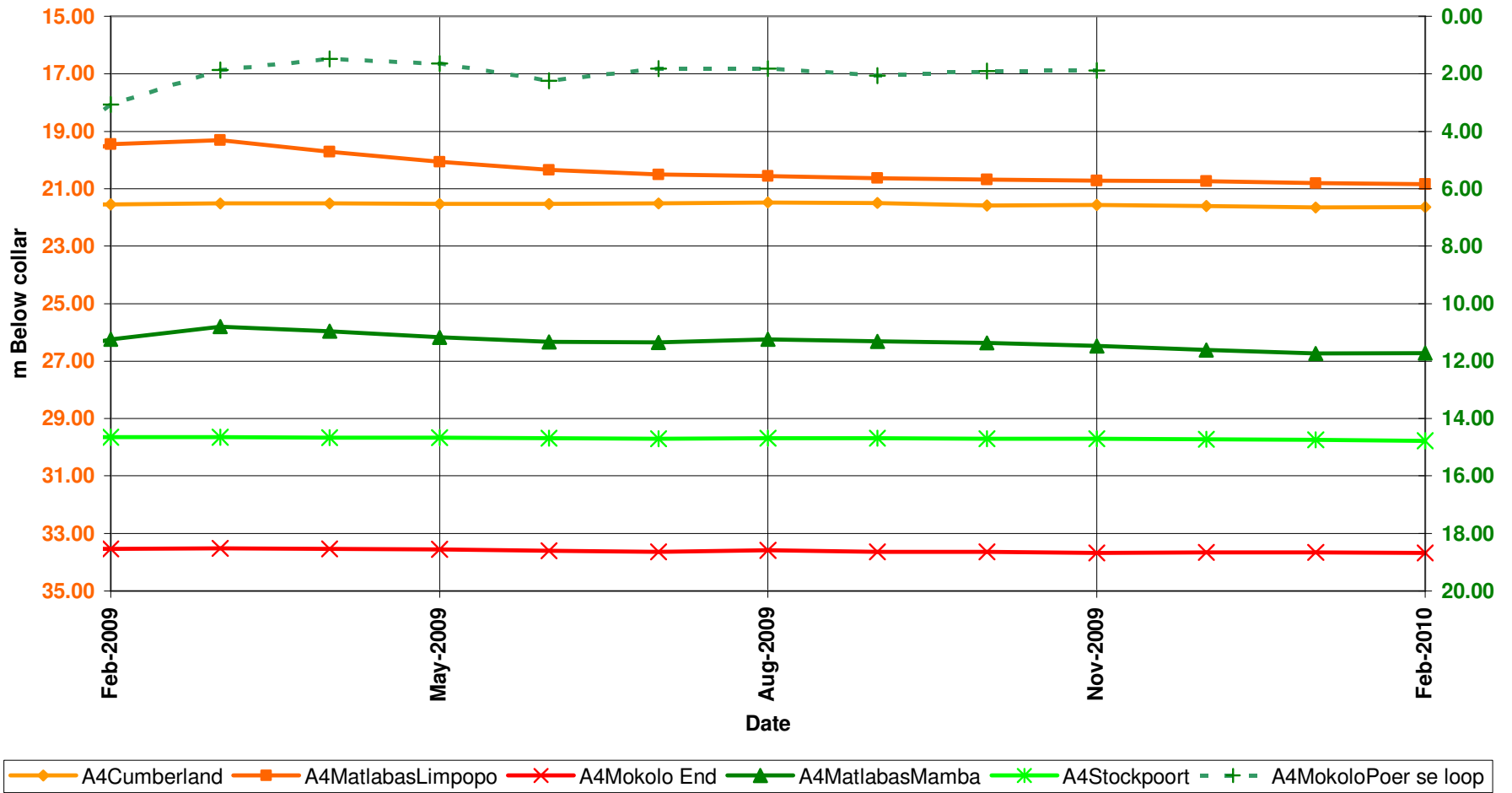
MAP 5

LIMPOPO GROUNDWATER MONITORING; PATTERNS IN GROUNDWATER LEVEL BEHAVIOUR FEBRUARY 2009 TO FEBRUARY 2010



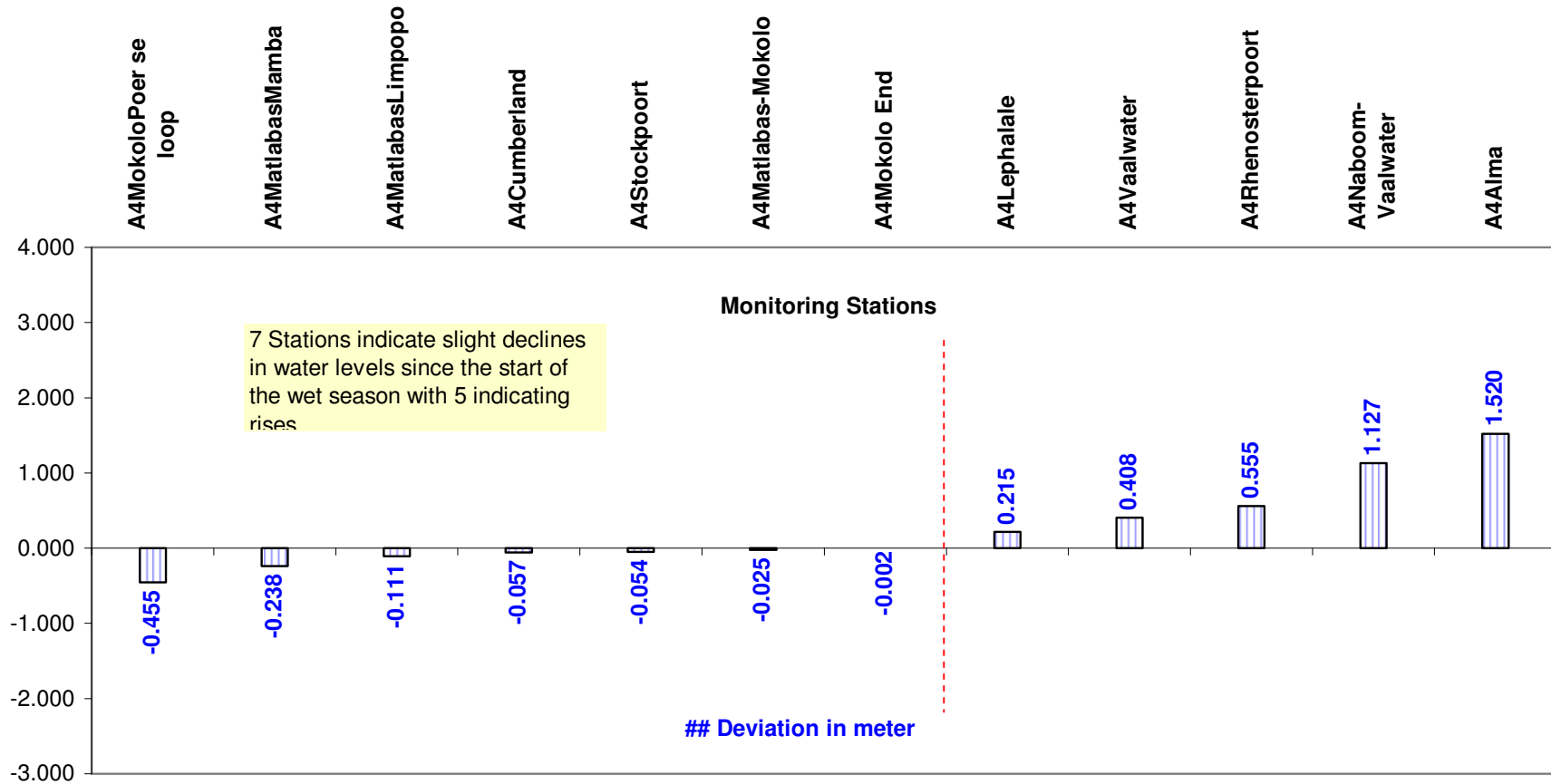
MAP 6

**Water level trend of some stations in A4 drainage:
1 February 2009 to 1 February 2010**



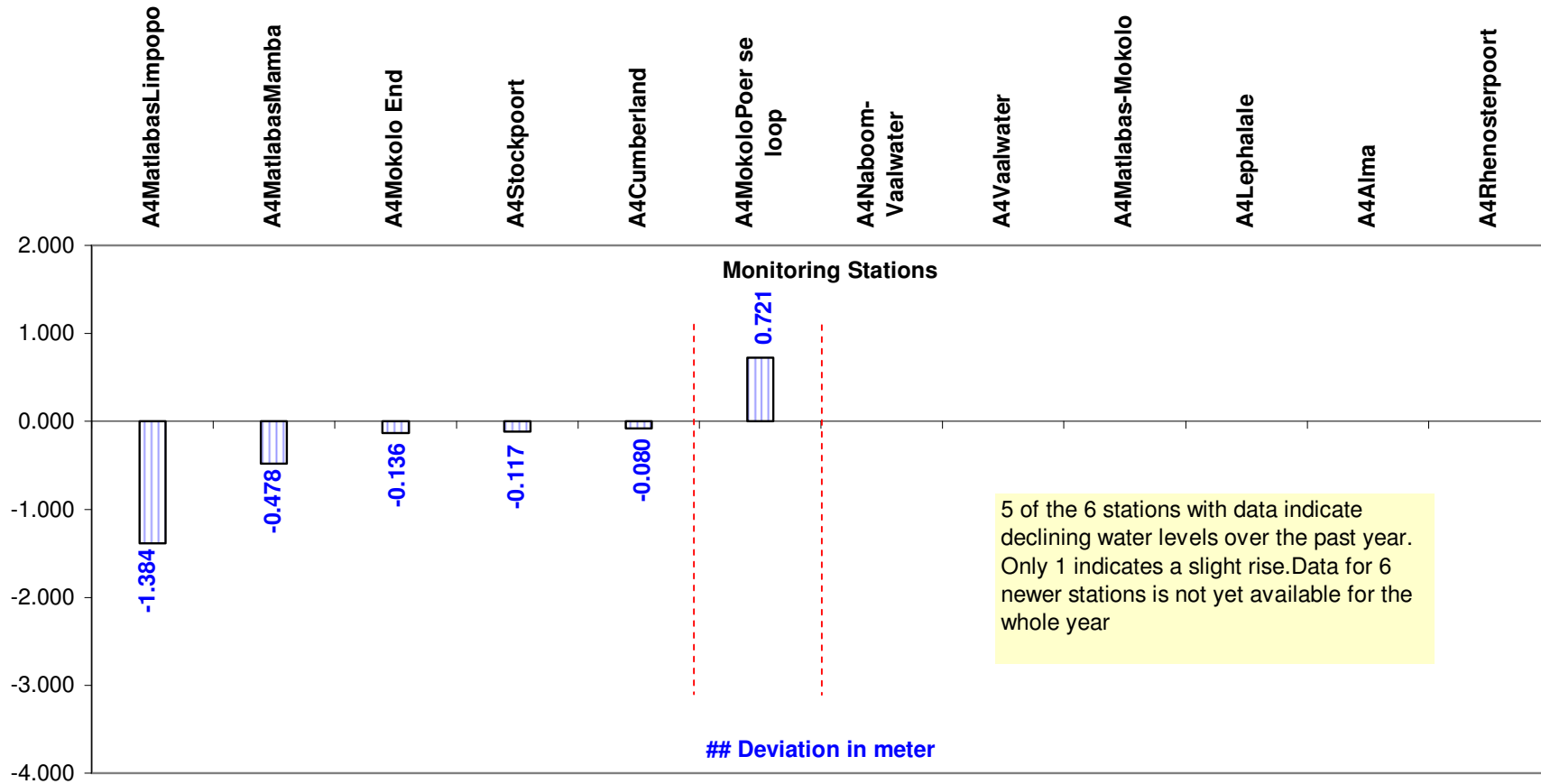
GRAPH 1

A4 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 November 2009 to 1 February 2010



GRAPH 2

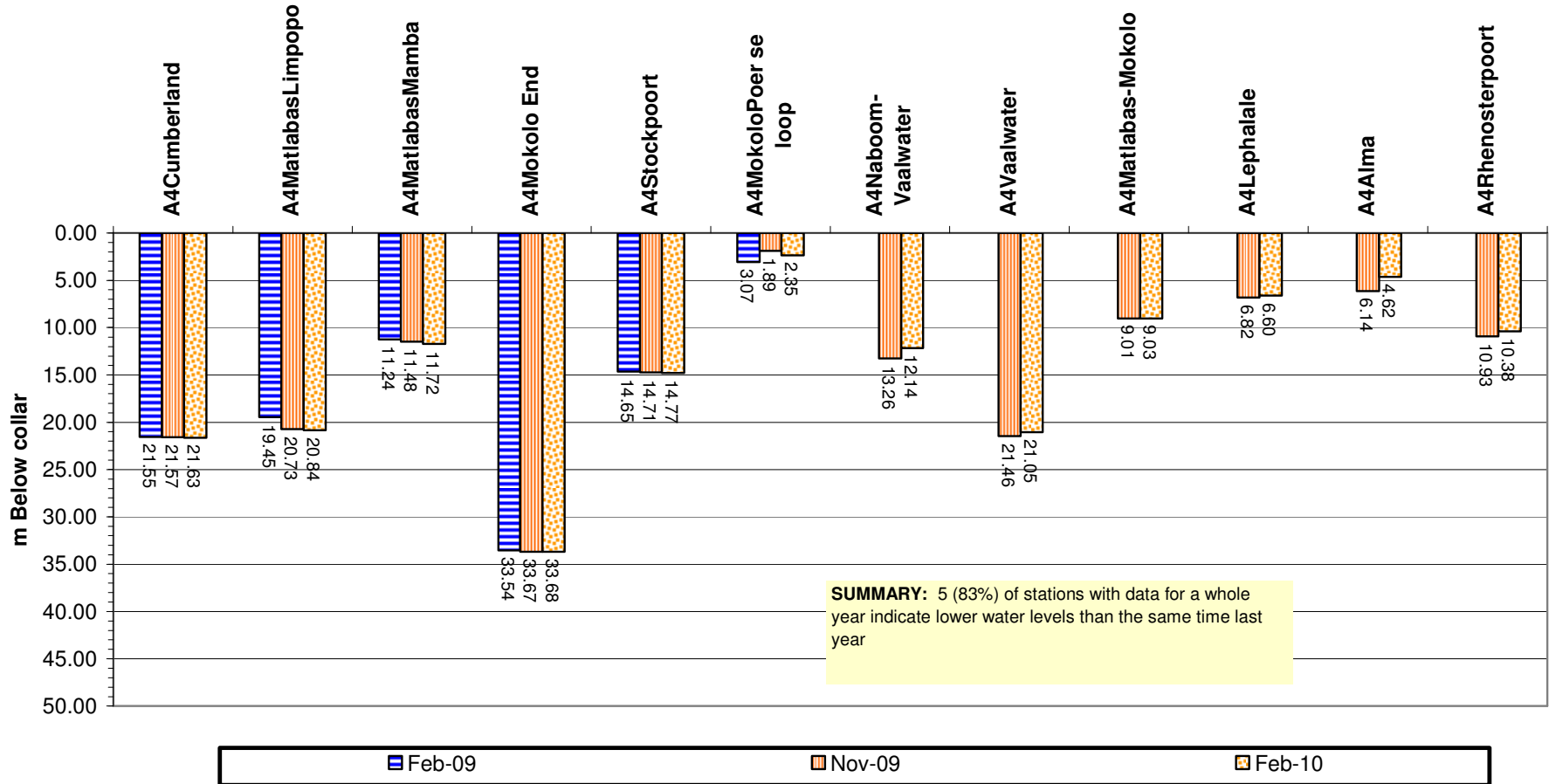
A4 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 February 2009 to 1 February 2010



GRAPH 3

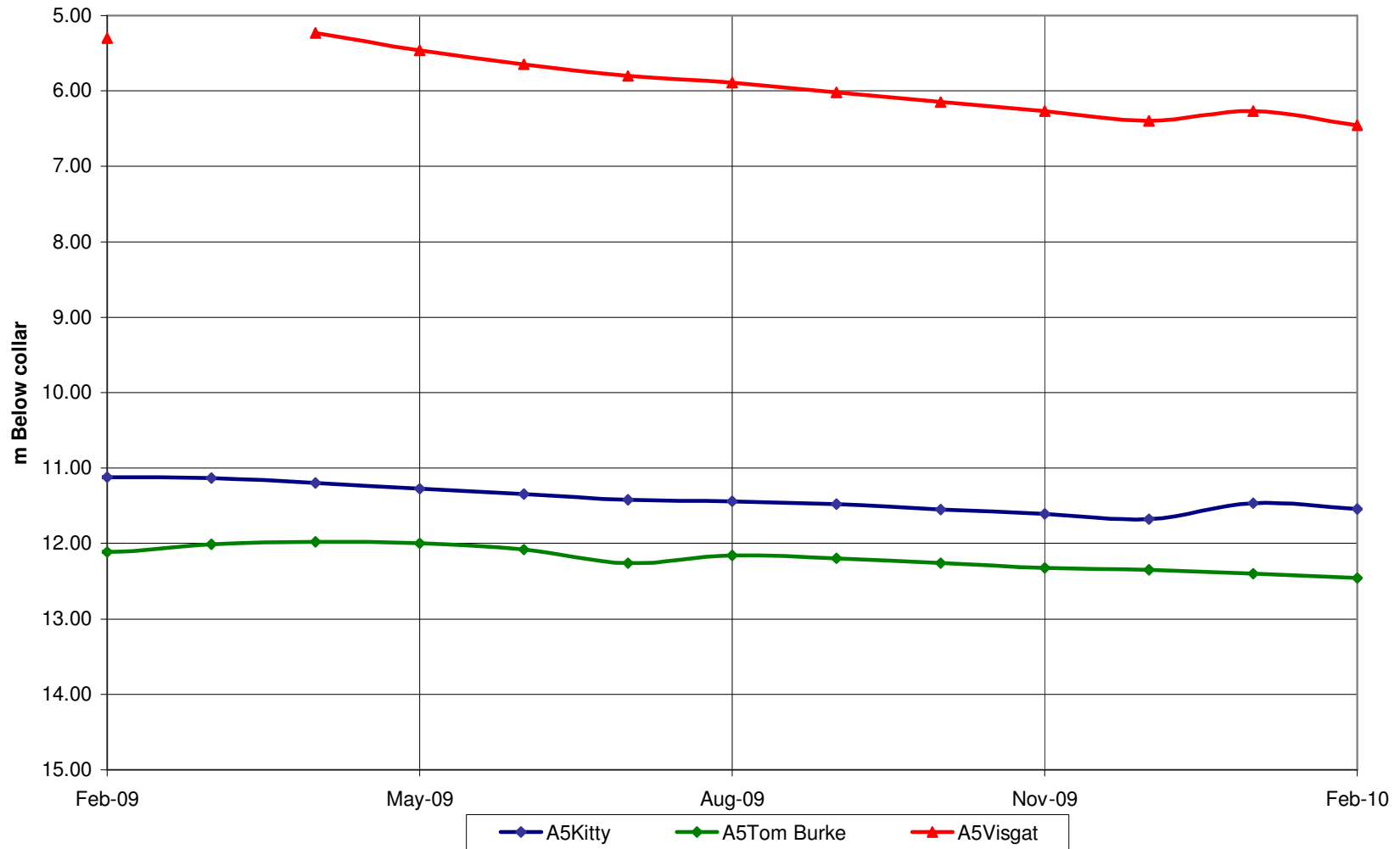
A4 DRAINAGE AREA
Comparison between water levels: 1 February 2009,
1 November 2009 and 1 February 2010

Monitoring Stations



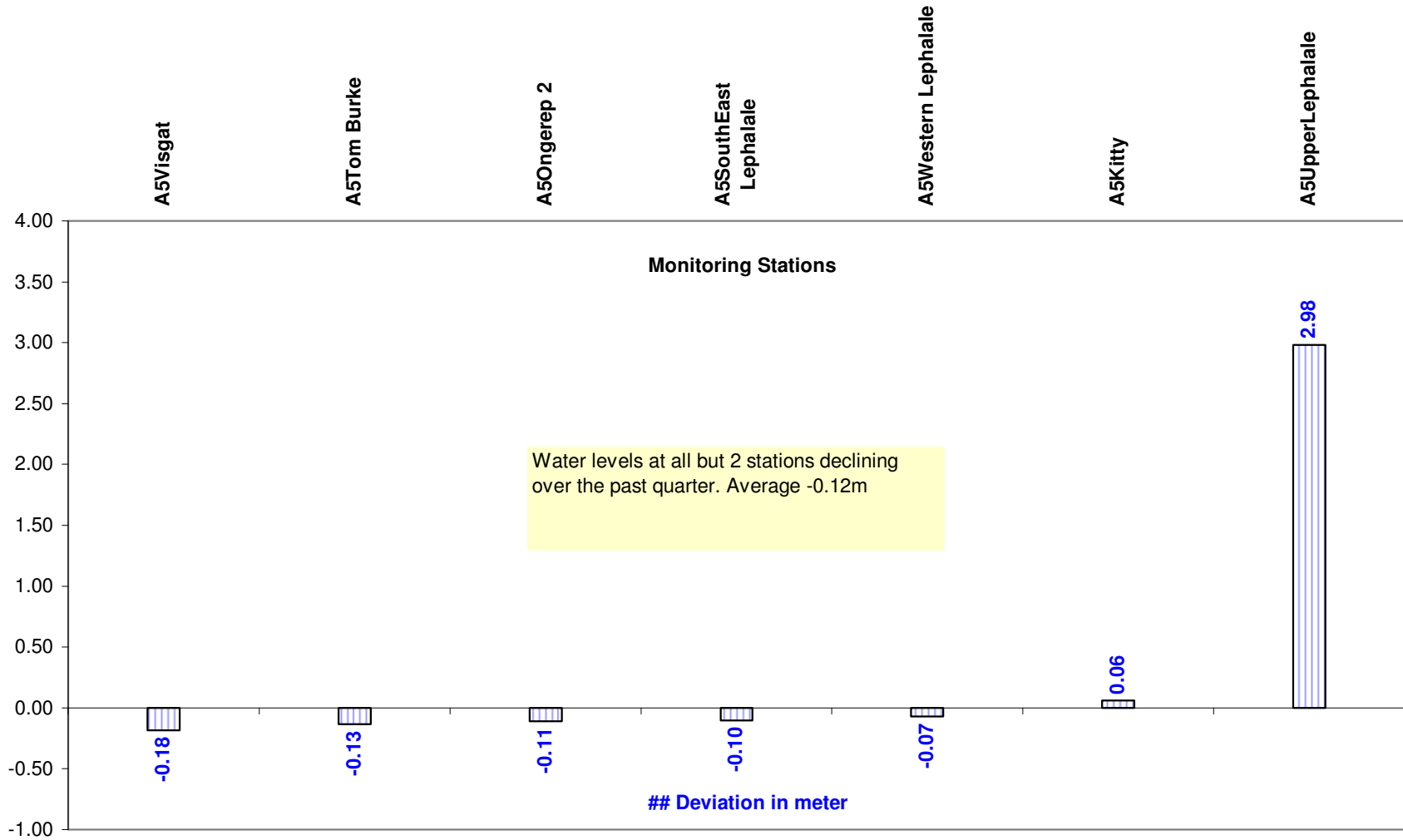
GRAPH 4

Comparison of water level trends at some stations in A5 drainage: 1 February 2009 to 1 February 2010



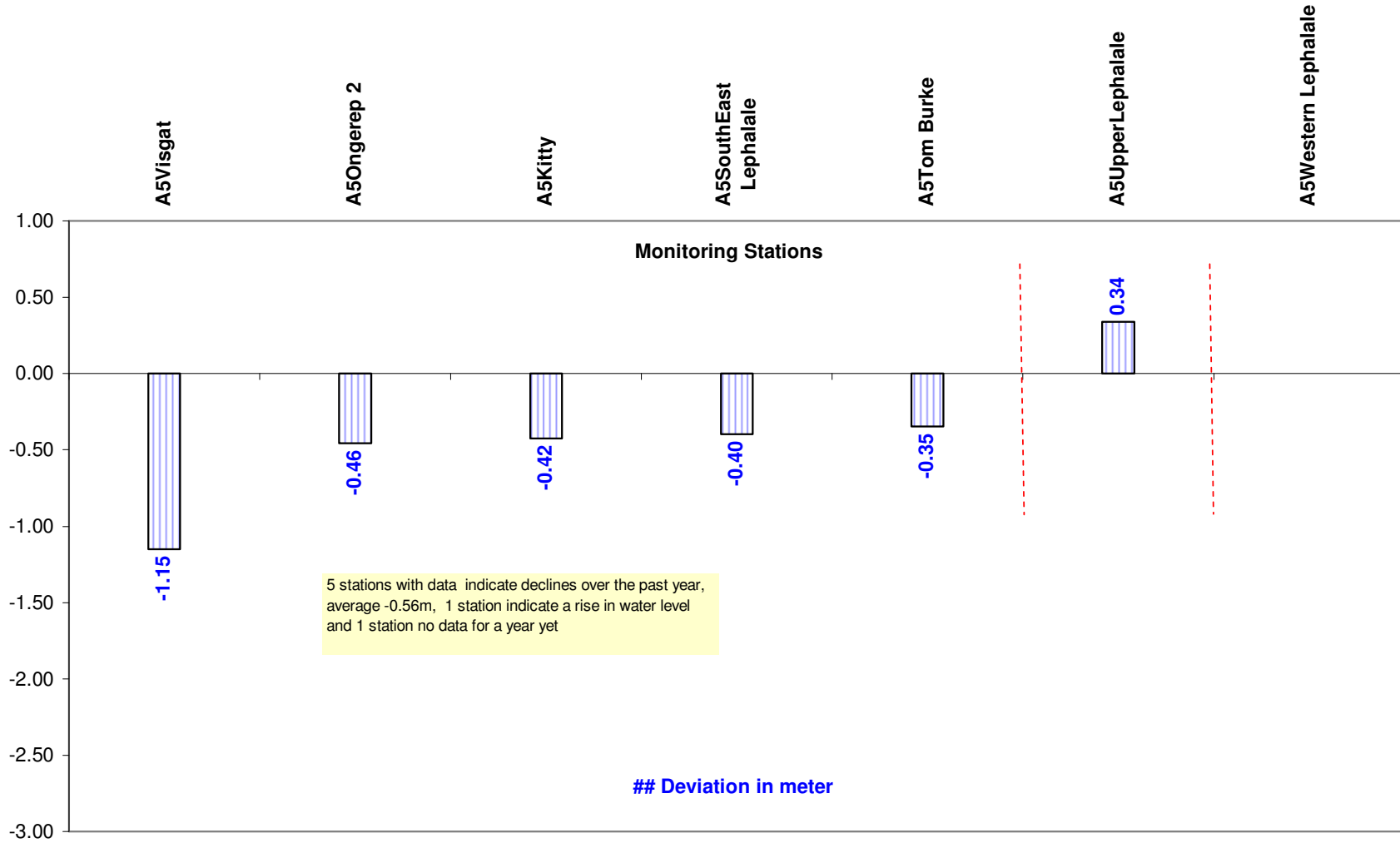
GRAPH 5

A5 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 November 2009 to 1 February 2010



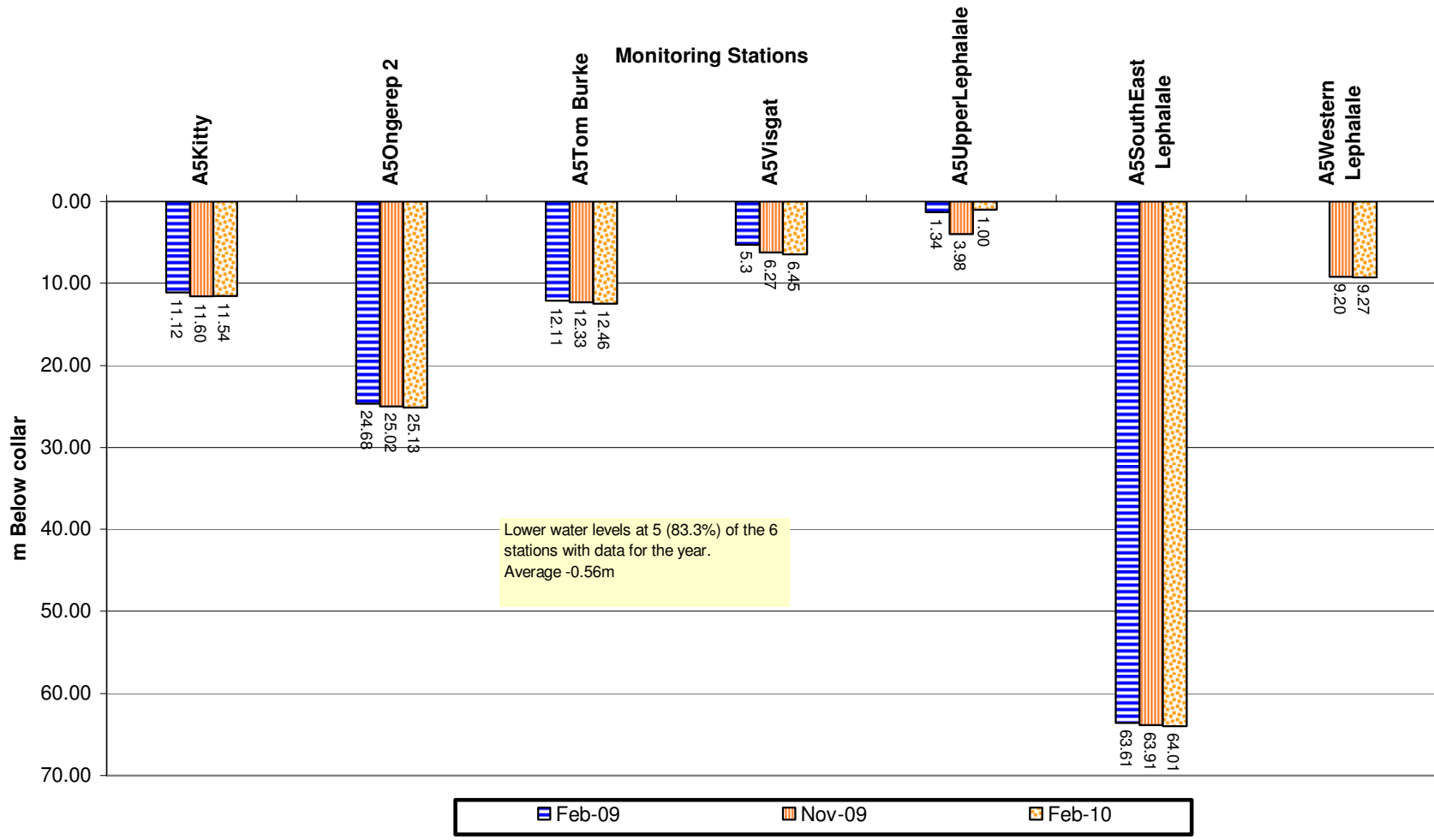
GRAPH 6

A5 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 February 2009 to 1 February 2010



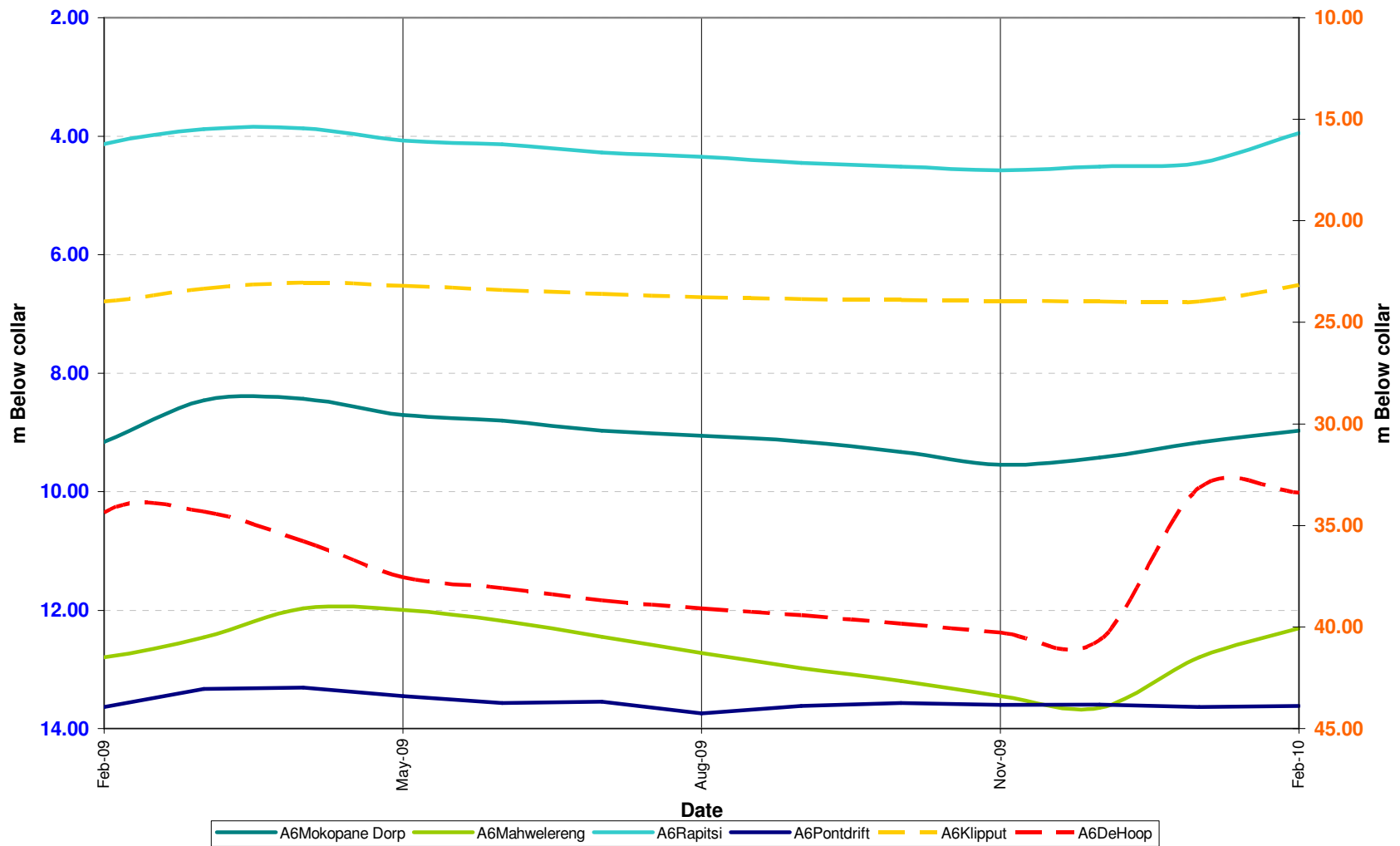
GRAPH 7

A5 DRAINAGE AREA
Comparison between water level depths : 1 February 2009,
1 November 2009 and 1 February 2010



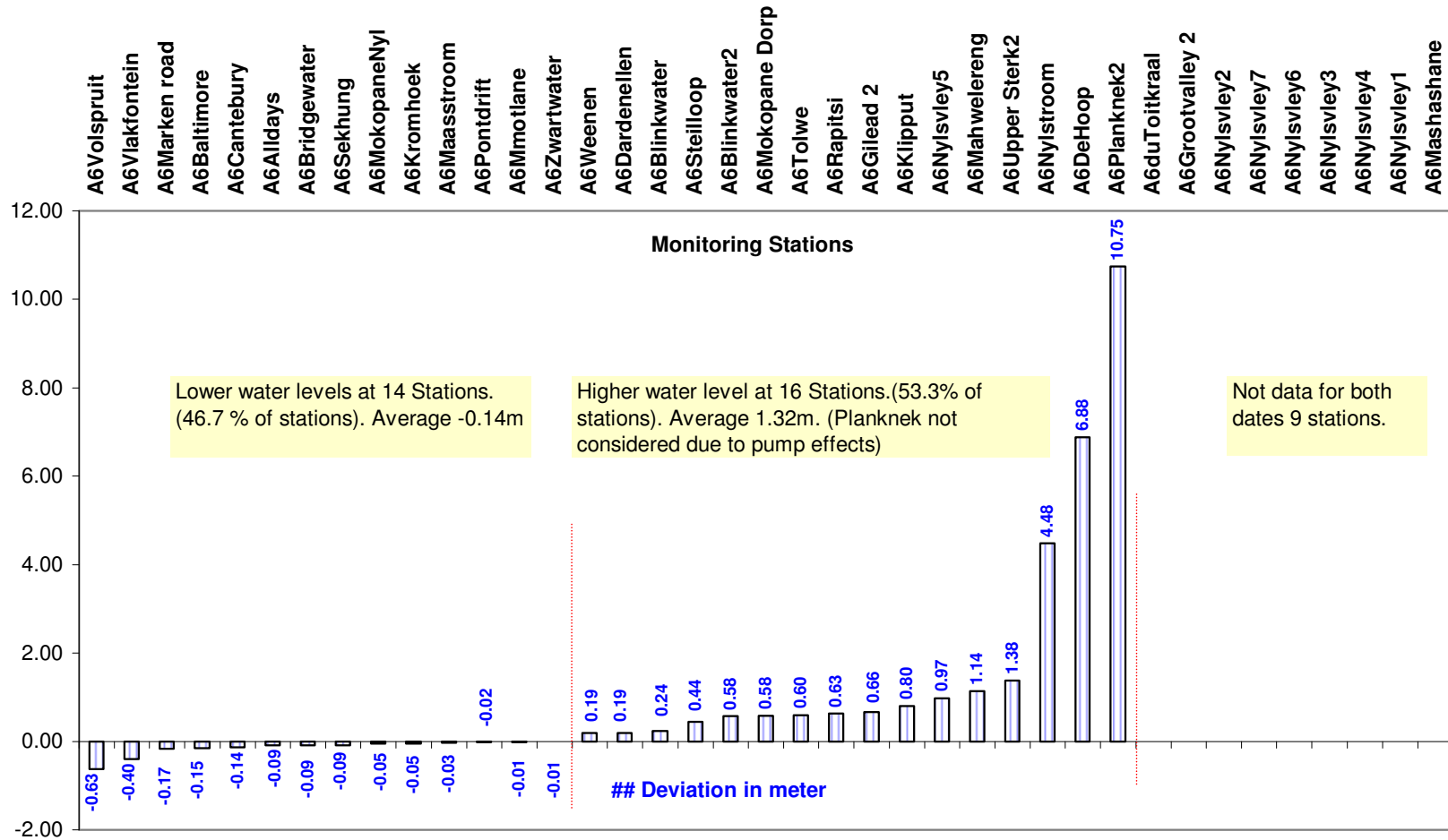
GRAPH 8

Comparison of water level trends at some stations in A6 drainage: 1 February 2009 to 1 February 2010



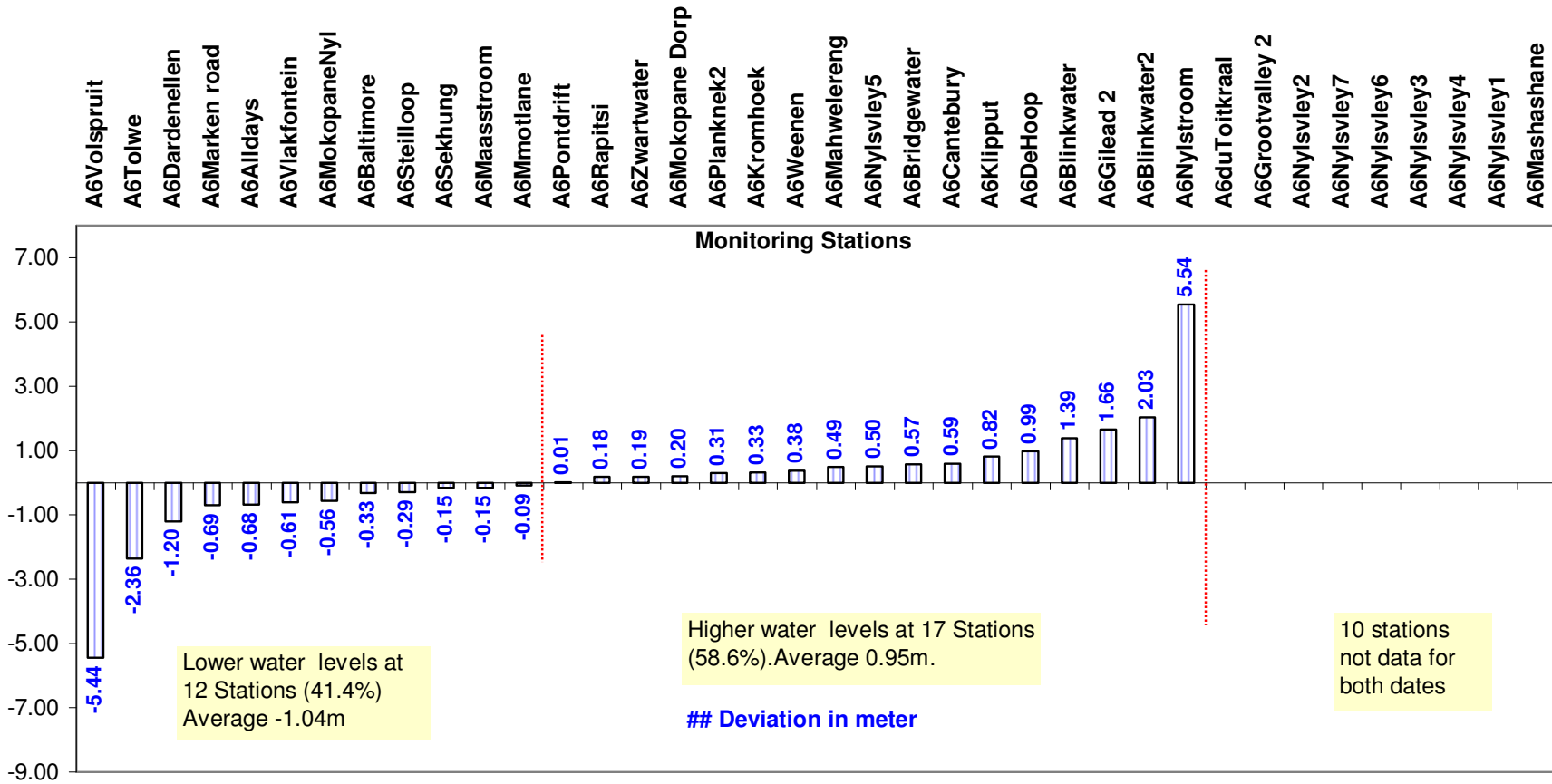
GRAPH 9

A6 DRAINAGE AREA Deviation of water levels: 1 November 2009 to 1 February 2010



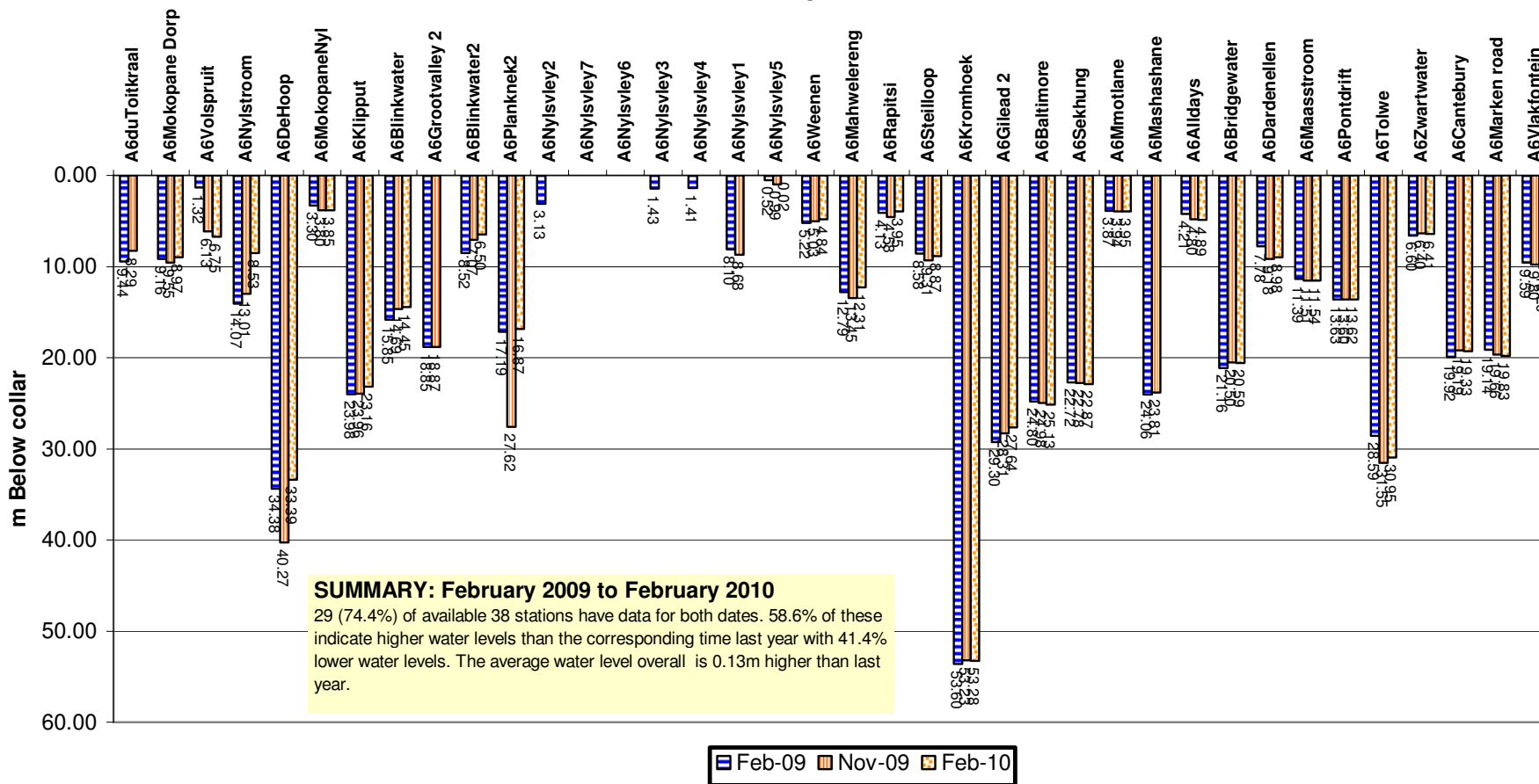
GRAPH 10

A6 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 February 2009 to 1 February 2010



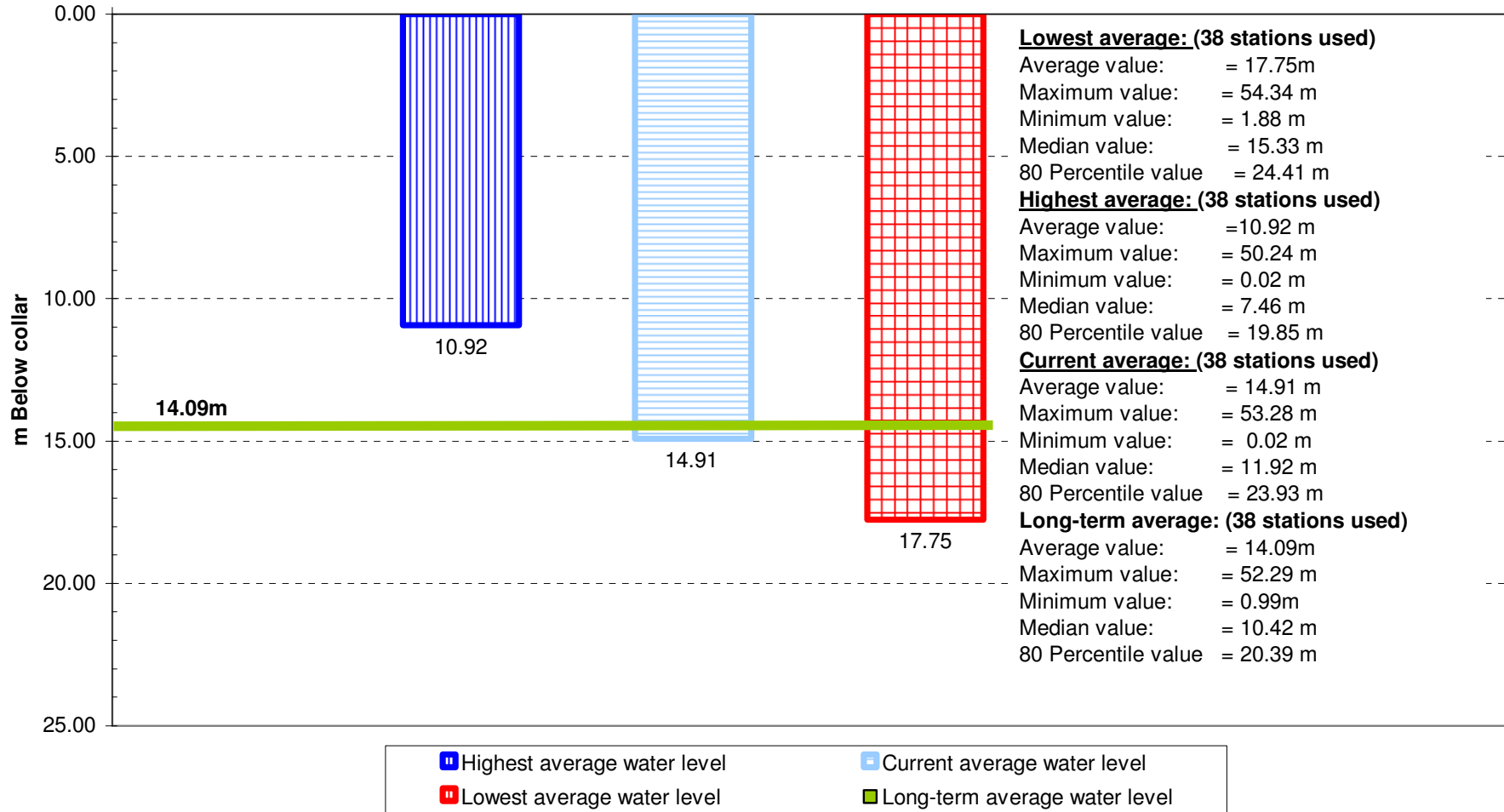
GRAPH 11

A6 DRAINAGE AREA
Comparison between water level depths: 1 February 2009,
1 November 2009, and 1 February 2010
Monitoring Stations



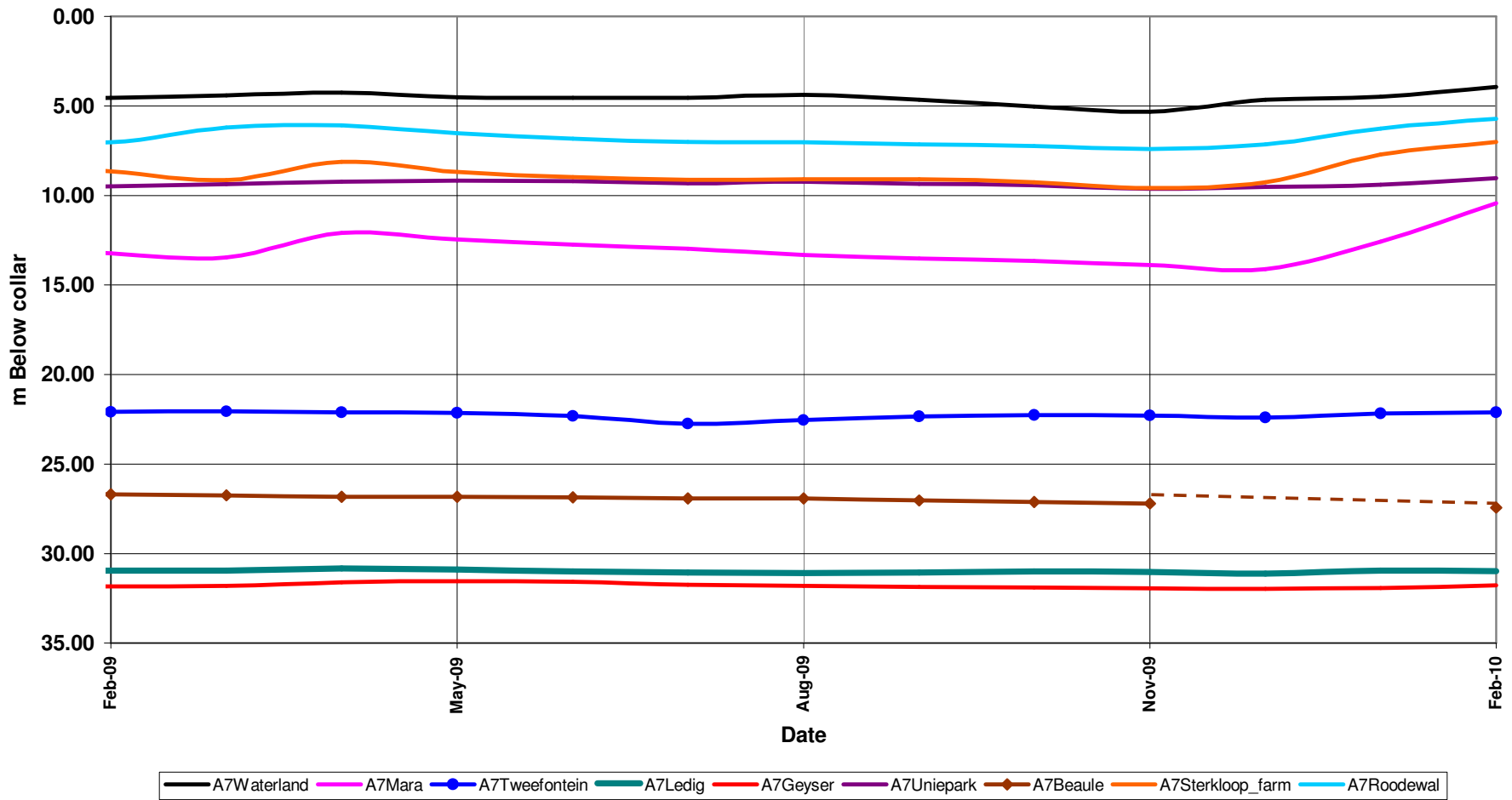
GRAPH 12

A6 DRAINAGE AREA
Comparison of average current water level depths with highest, lowest & long-term average water level depths recorded



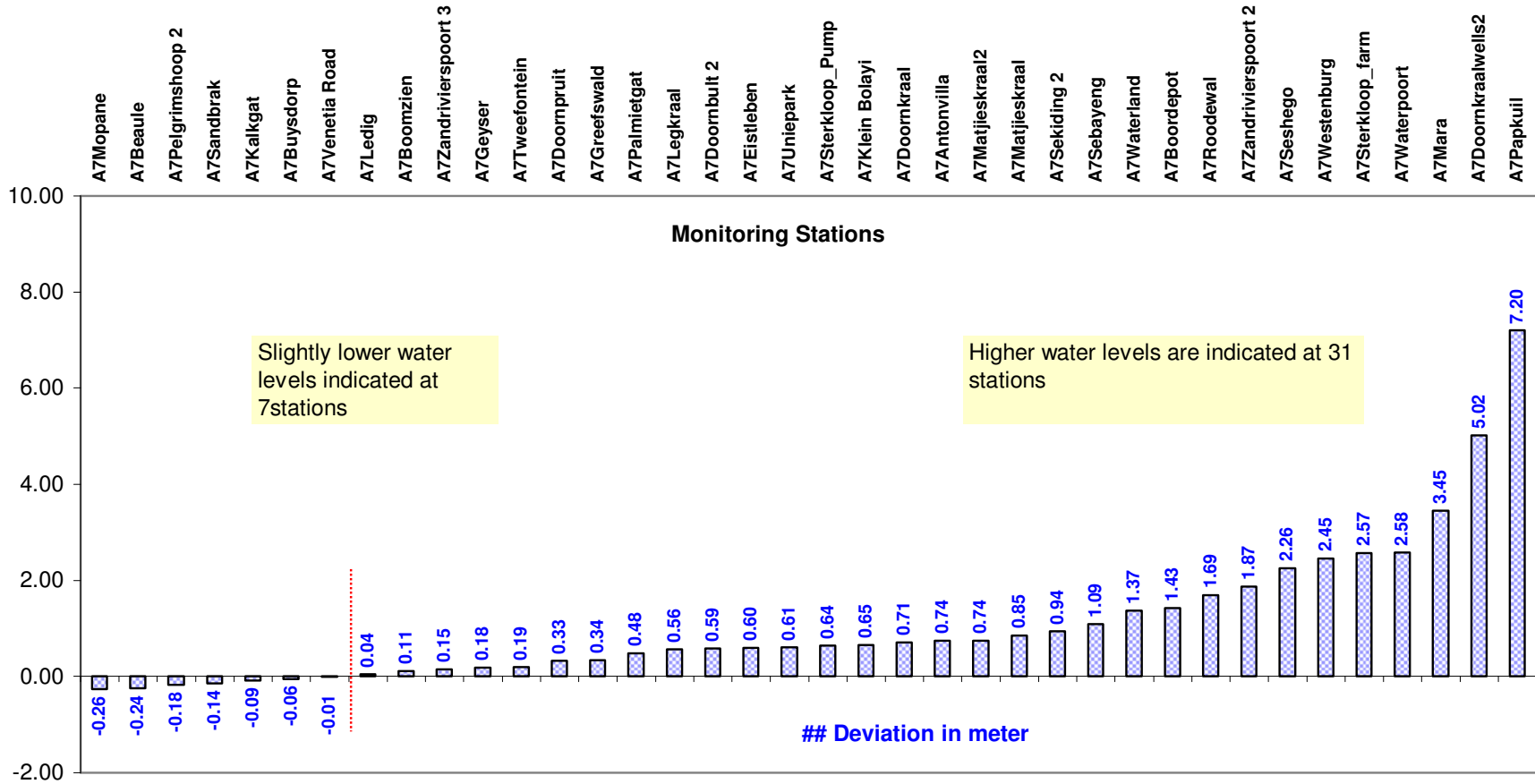
GRAPH 13

Comparison of water level trends at some stations in A7 drainage:
1 February 2009 to 1 February 2010



GRAPH 14

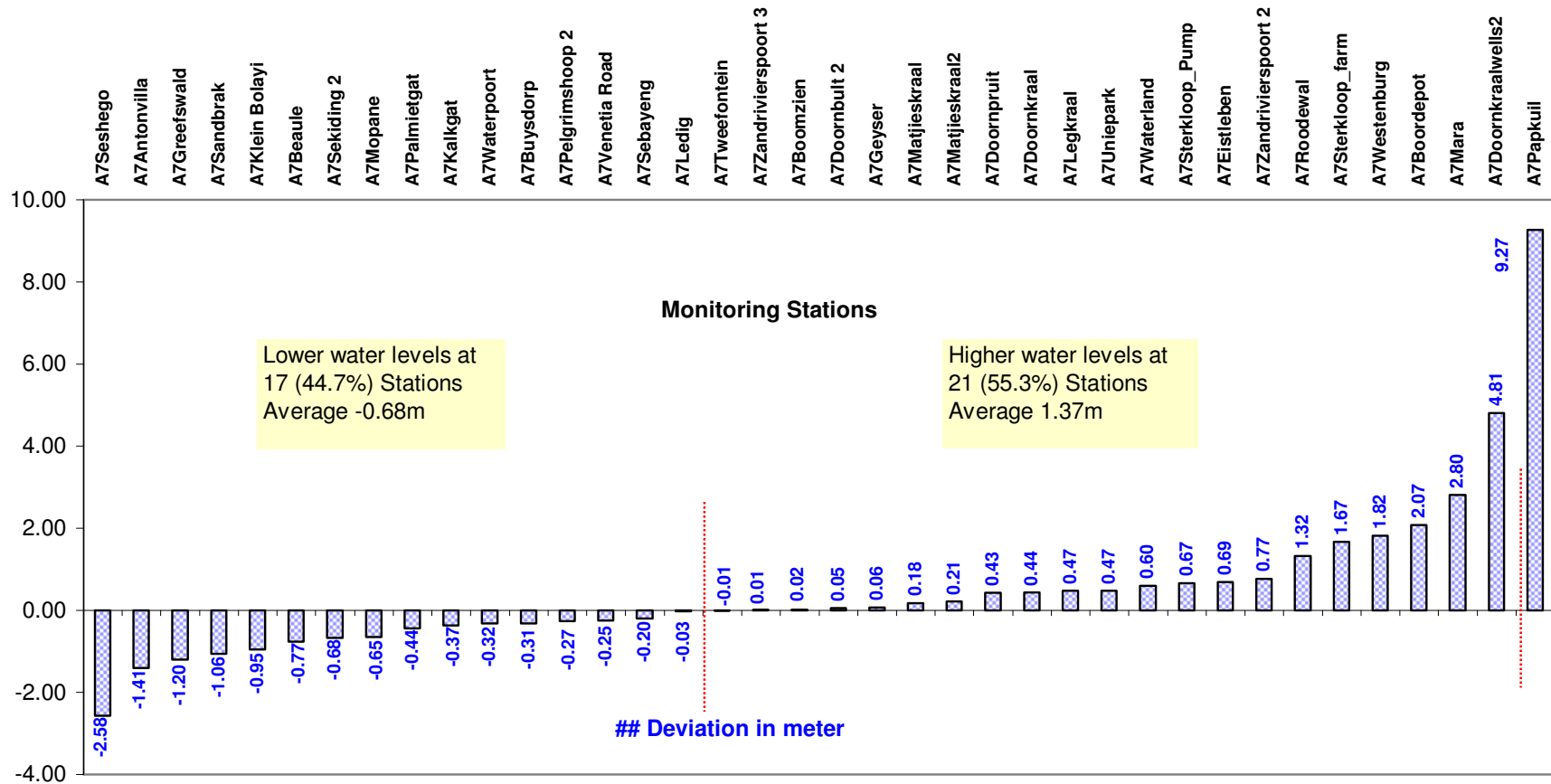
A7 DRAINAGE AREA Deviation of water level depths: 1 November 2009 to 1 February 2010



GRAPH 15

A7 DRAINAGE AREA

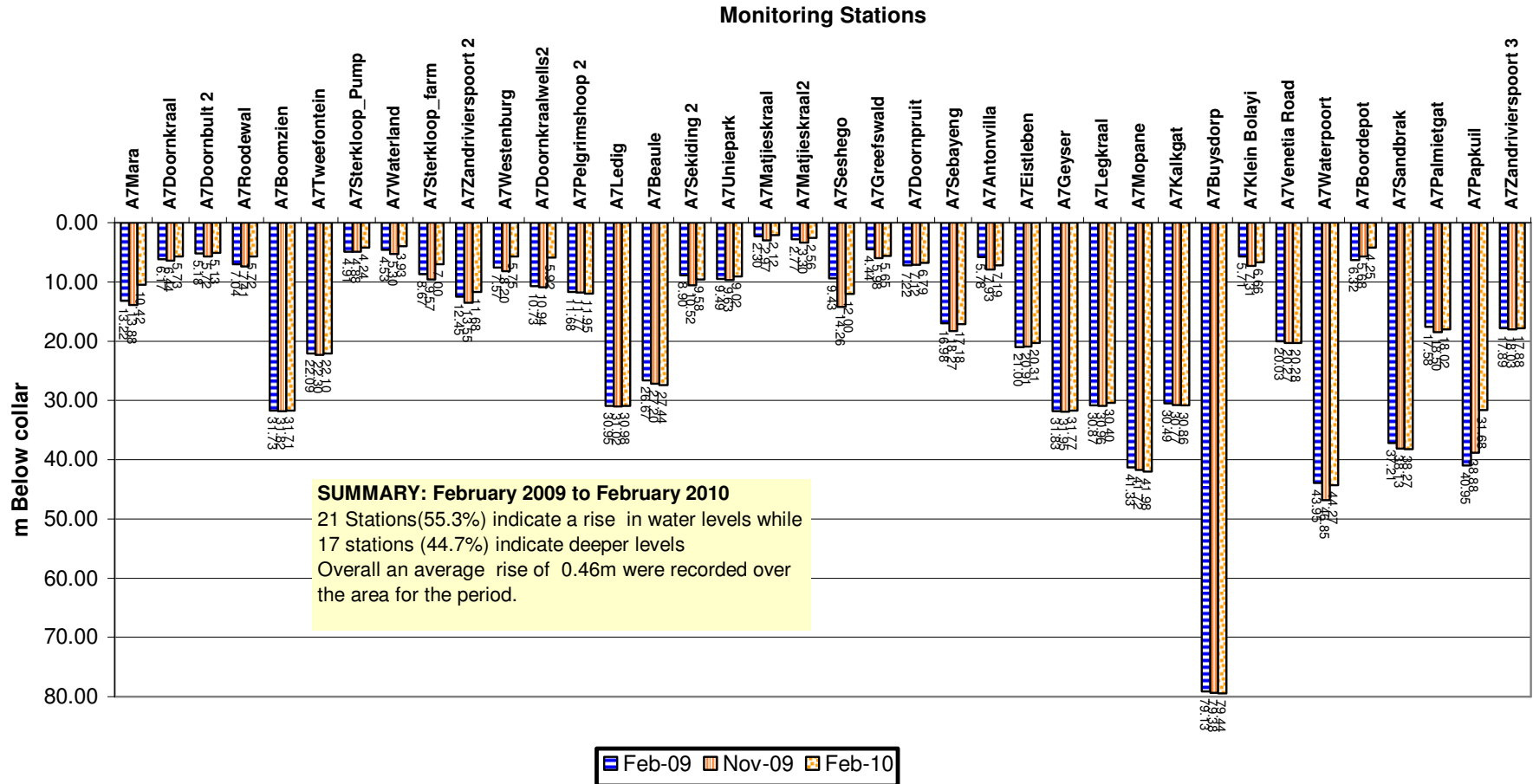
Deviation of water level depths: 1 February 2009 to 1 February 2010



GRAPH 16

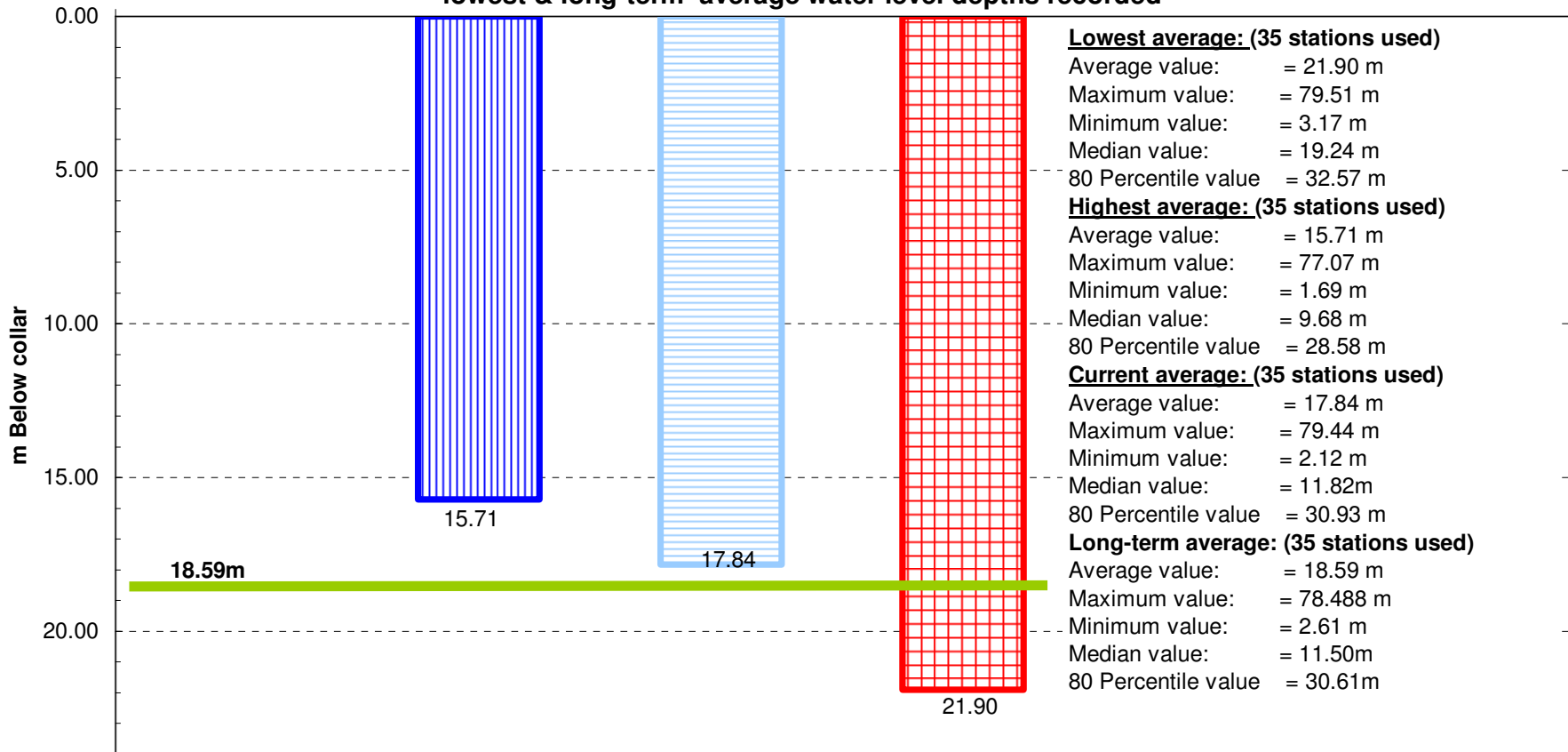
A7 DRAINAGE AREA

Comparison between water level depths: 1 February 2009, 1 November 2009 and 1 February 2010



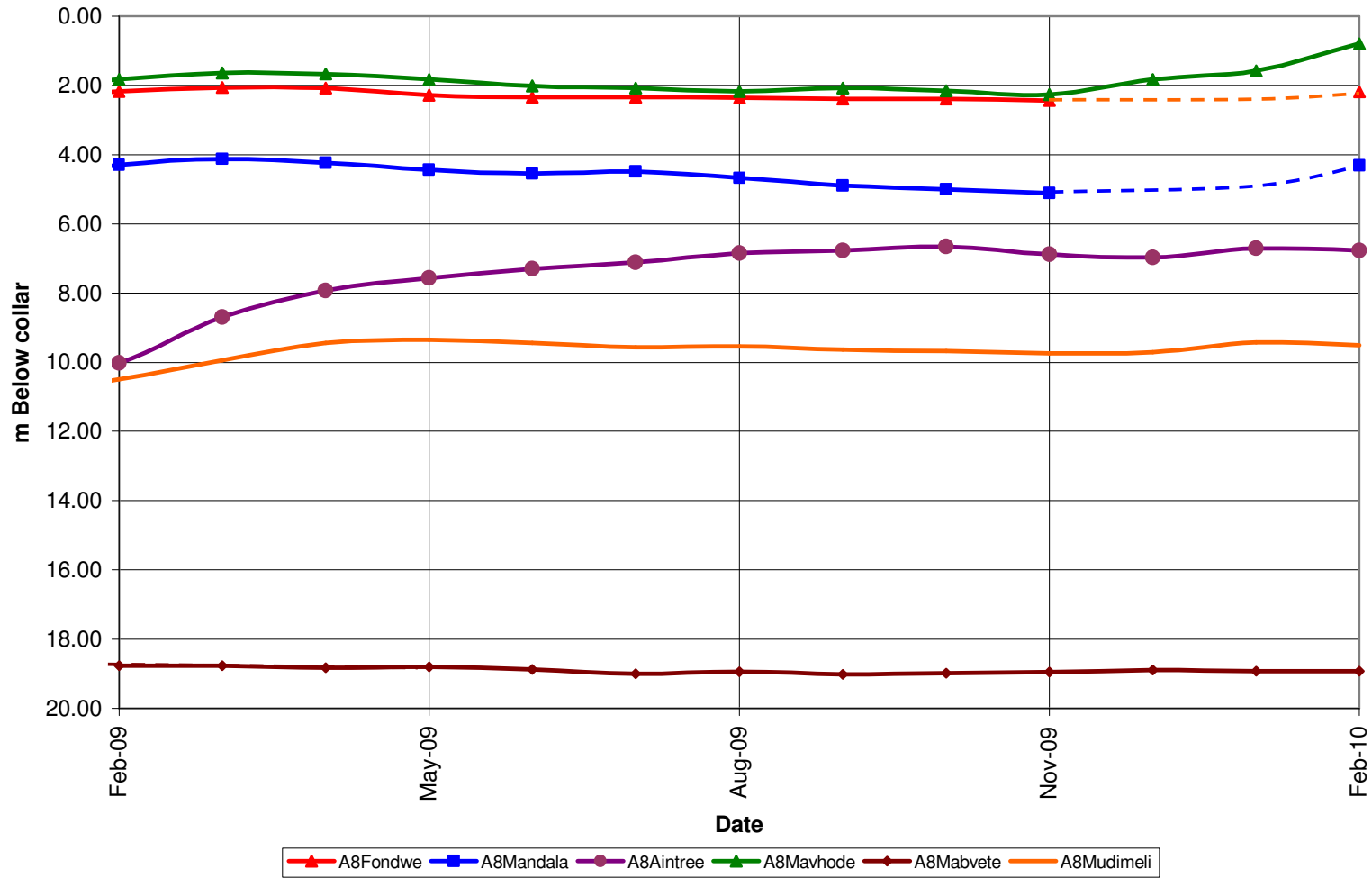
GRAPH 17

A7 DRAINAGE AREA
Comparison of average current water level depth with highest, lowest & long-term average water level depths recorded



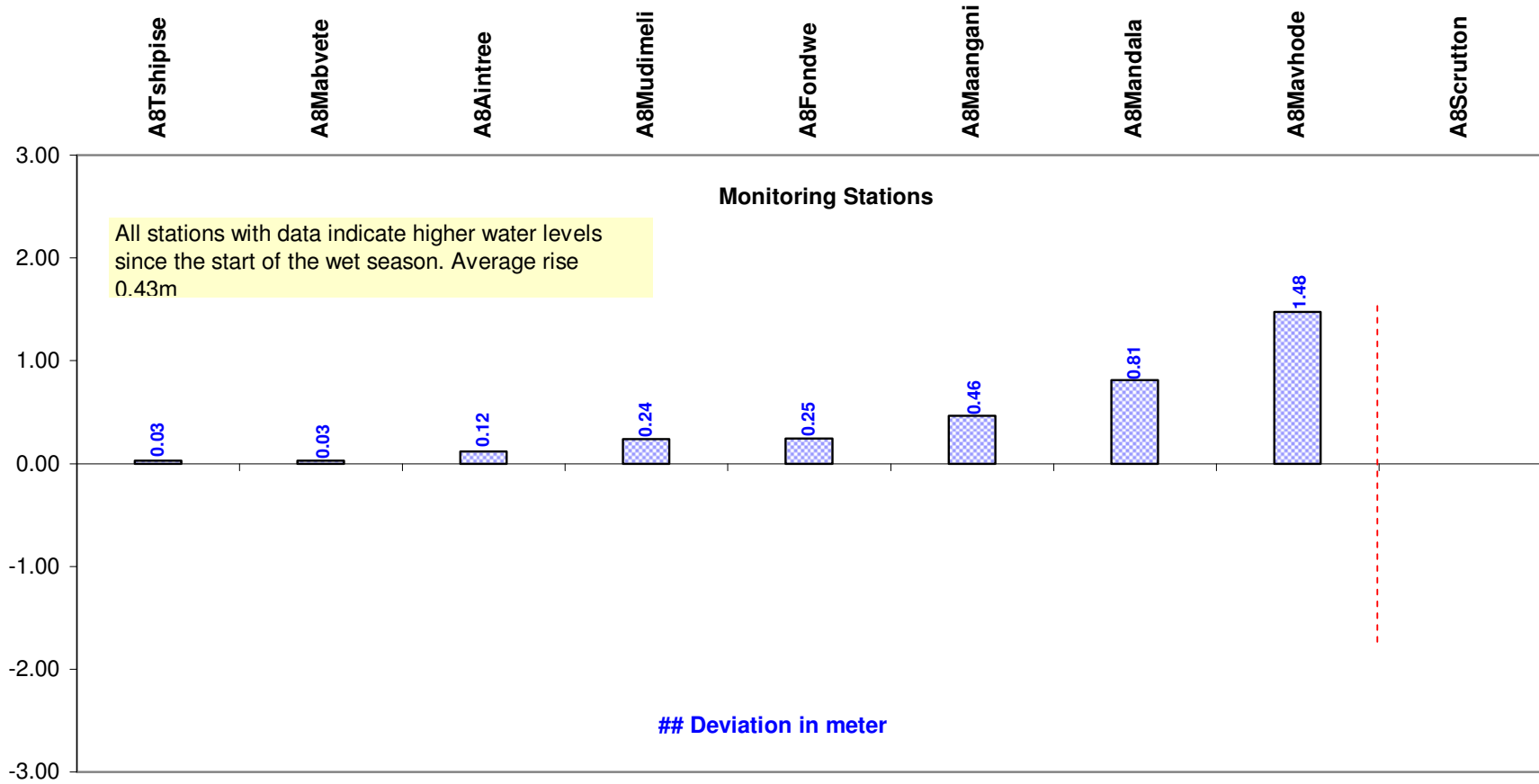
GRAPH 18

Comparison of water level trends at some stations in A8 drainage:
1 February 2009 to 1 February 2010



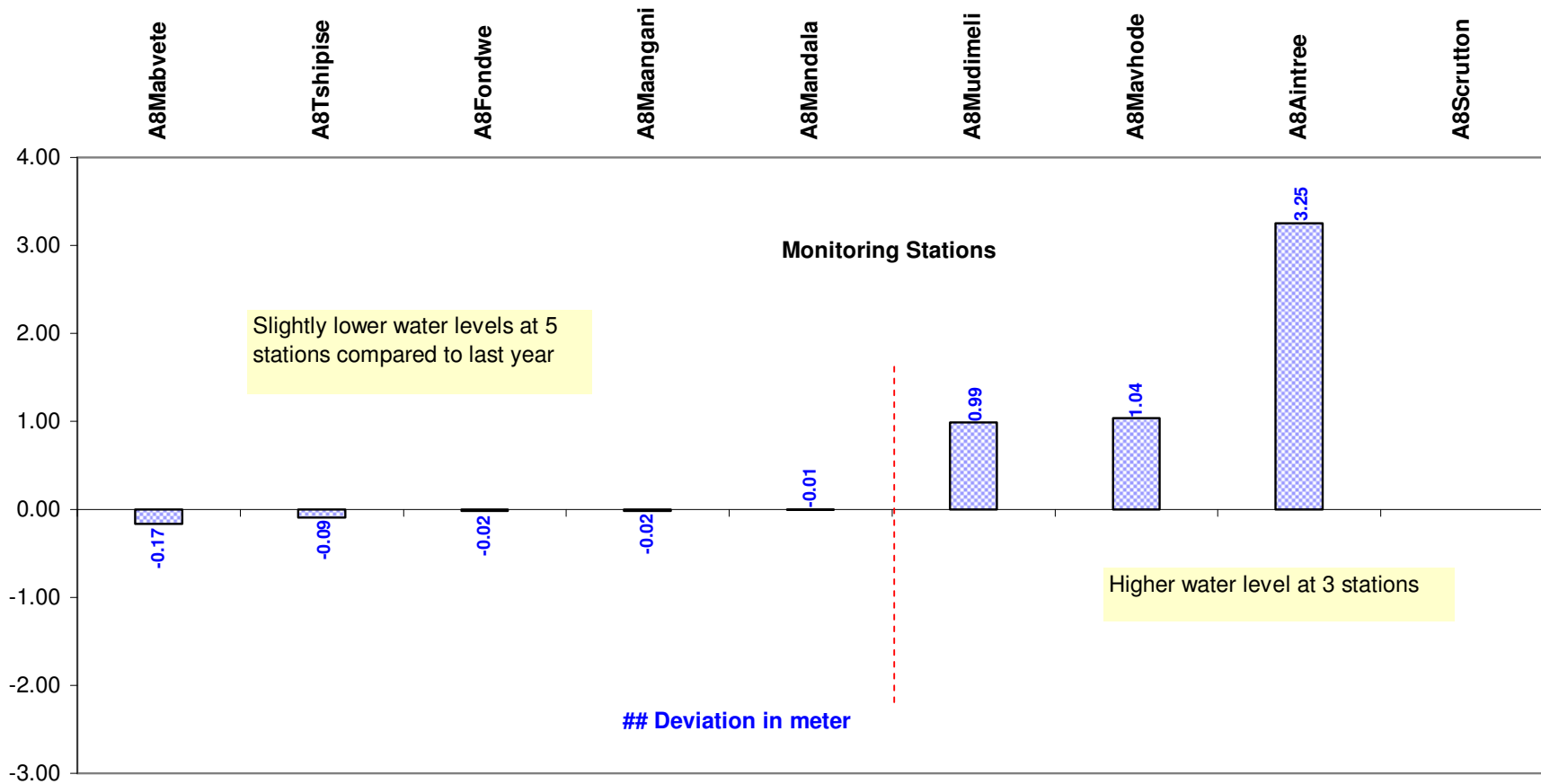
GRAPH 19

A8 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water level depths: 1 November 2009 to 1 February 2010



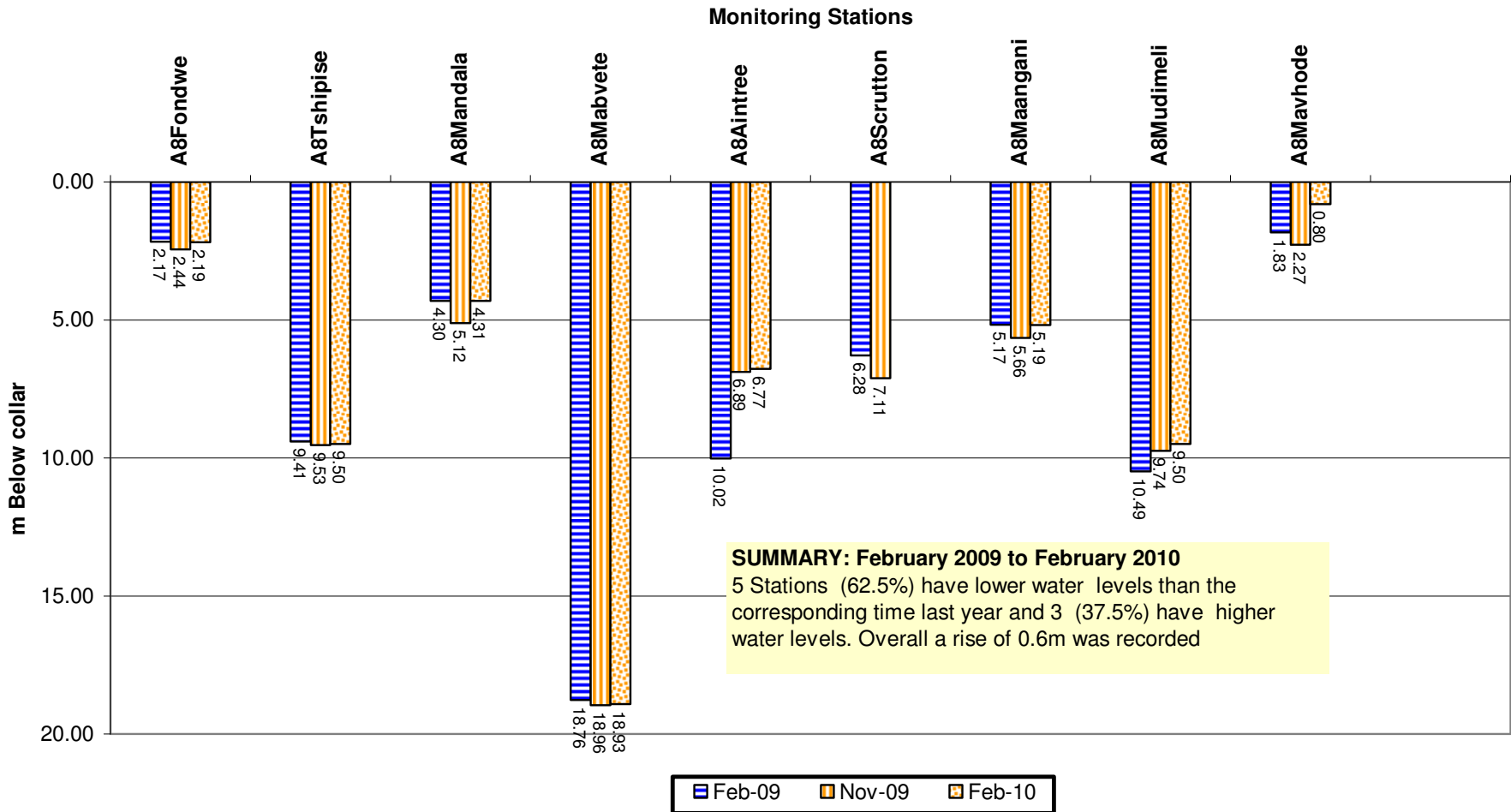
GRAPH 20

A8 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 February 2009 to 1 February 2010



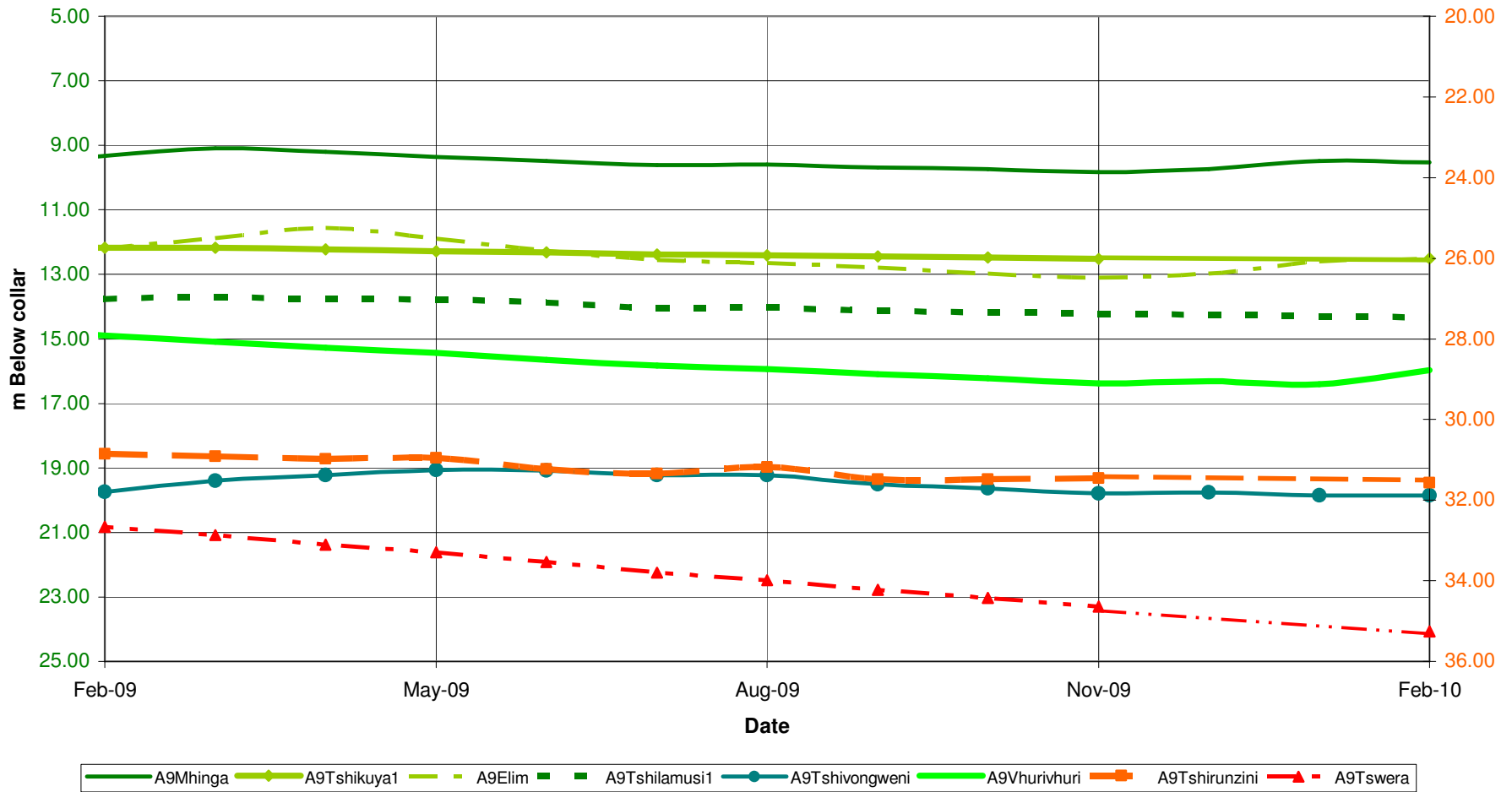
GRAPH 21

A8 DRAINAGE AREA
Comparison between water level depths: 1 February 2009,
1 November 2009 and 1 February 2010



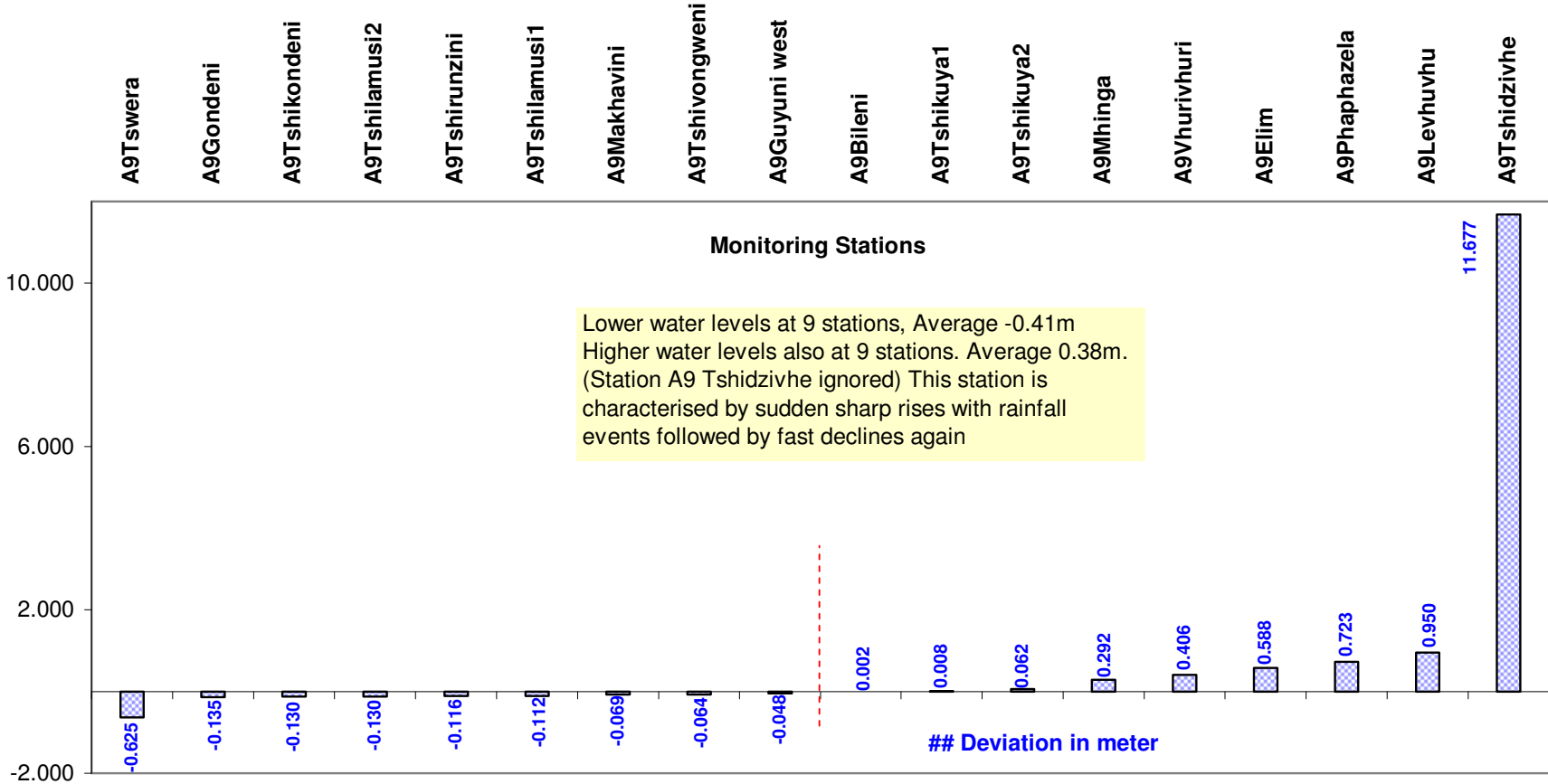
GRAPH 22

**Comparison of water level trends at some stations in A9 drainage :
1 February 2009 to 1 February 2010**



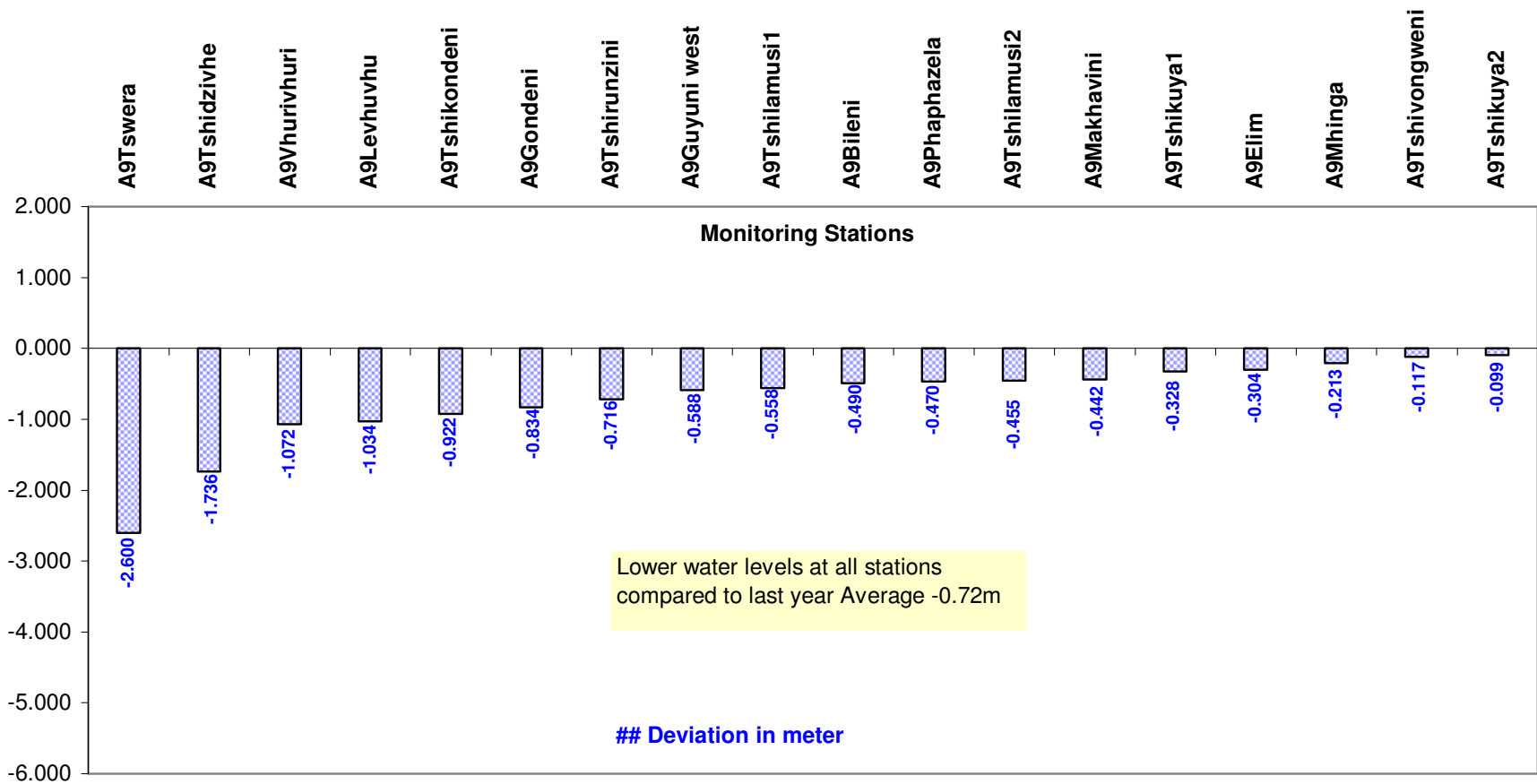
GRAPH 23

A9 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 November 2009 to 1 February 2010



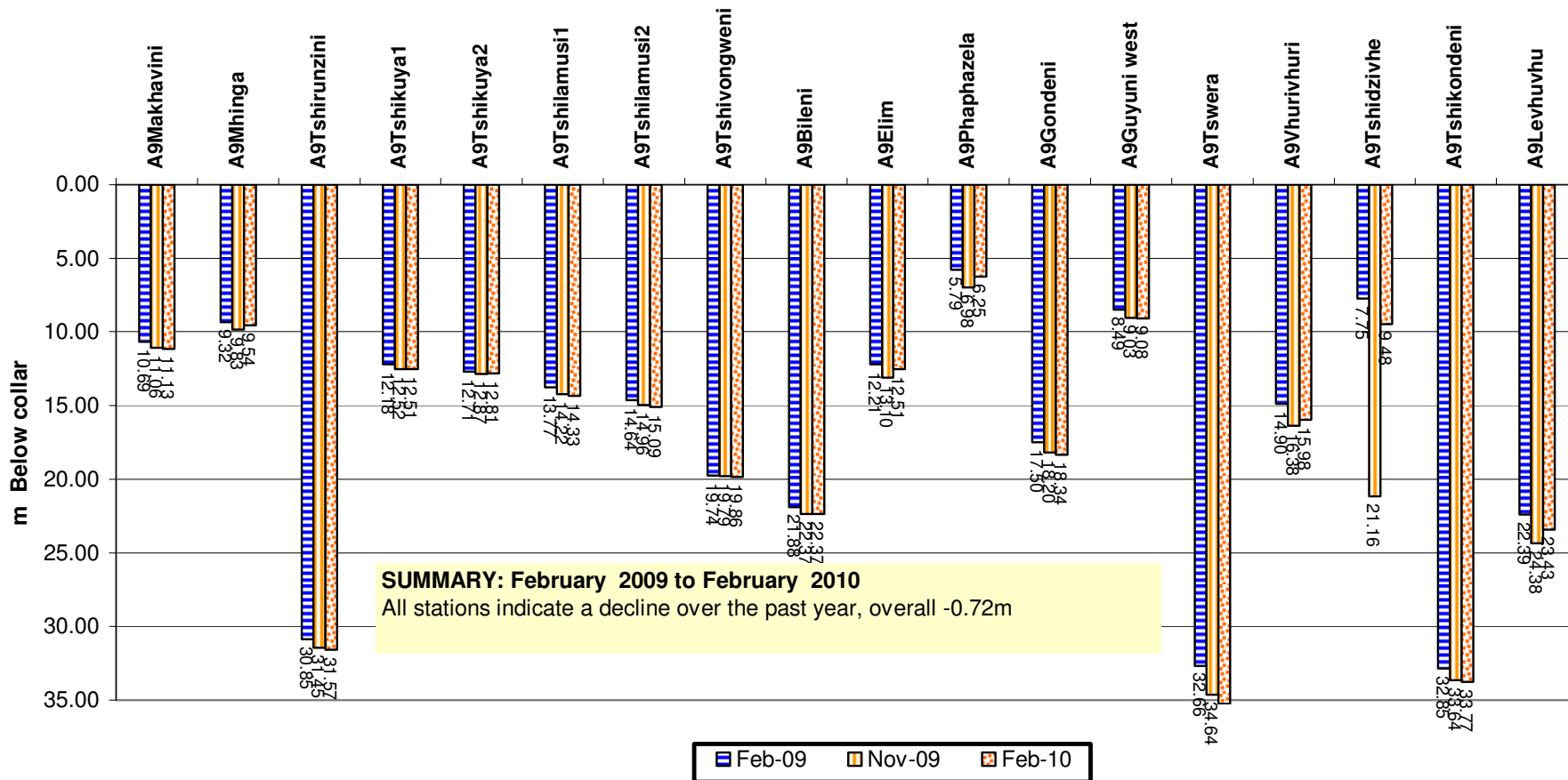
GRAPH 24

A9 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 February 2009 to 1 February 2010



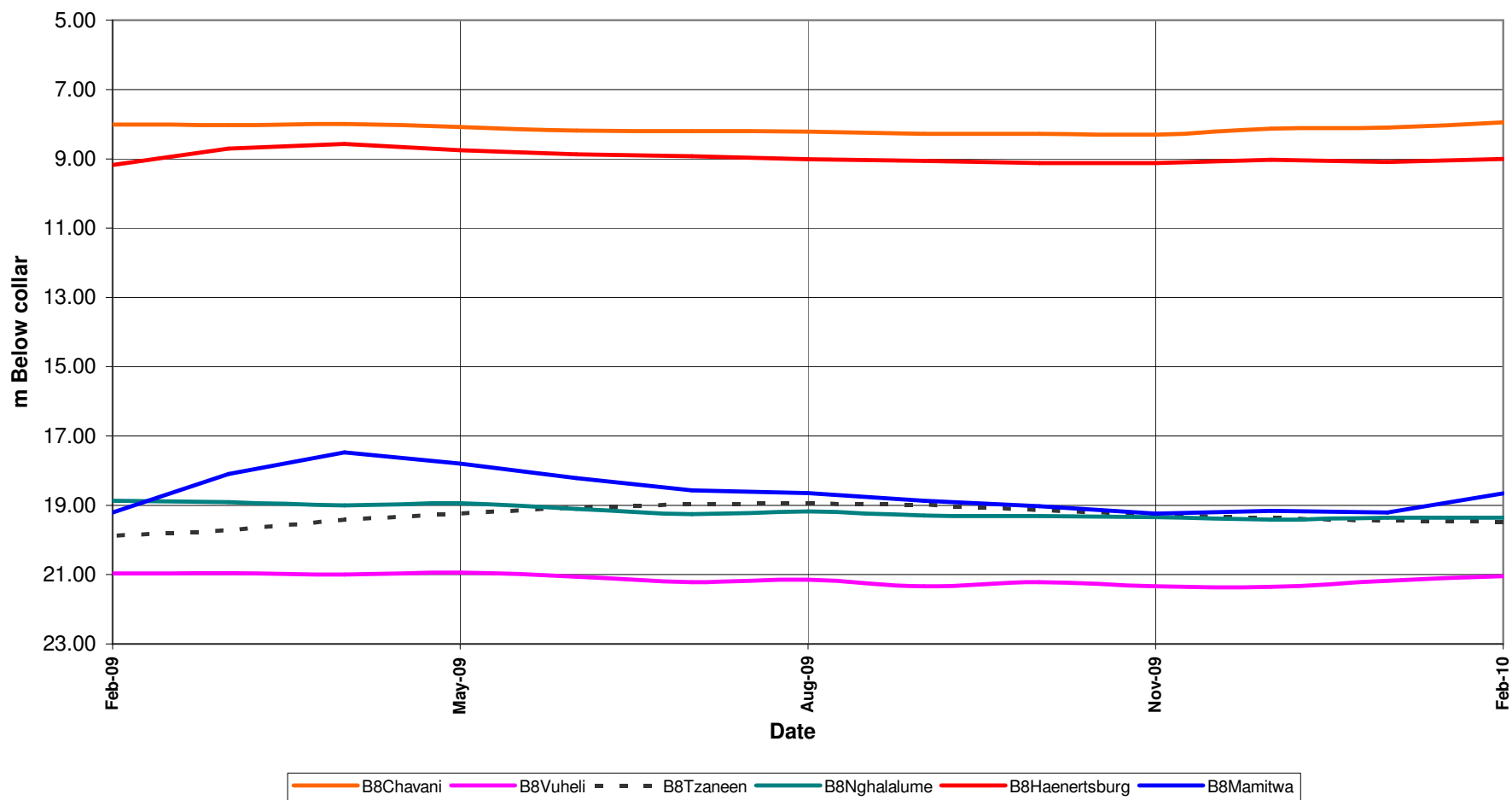
GRAPH 25

A9 DRAINAGE AREA
Comparison between water level depths: 1 February 2009,
1 November 2009 and 1 February 2010
Monitoring Stations



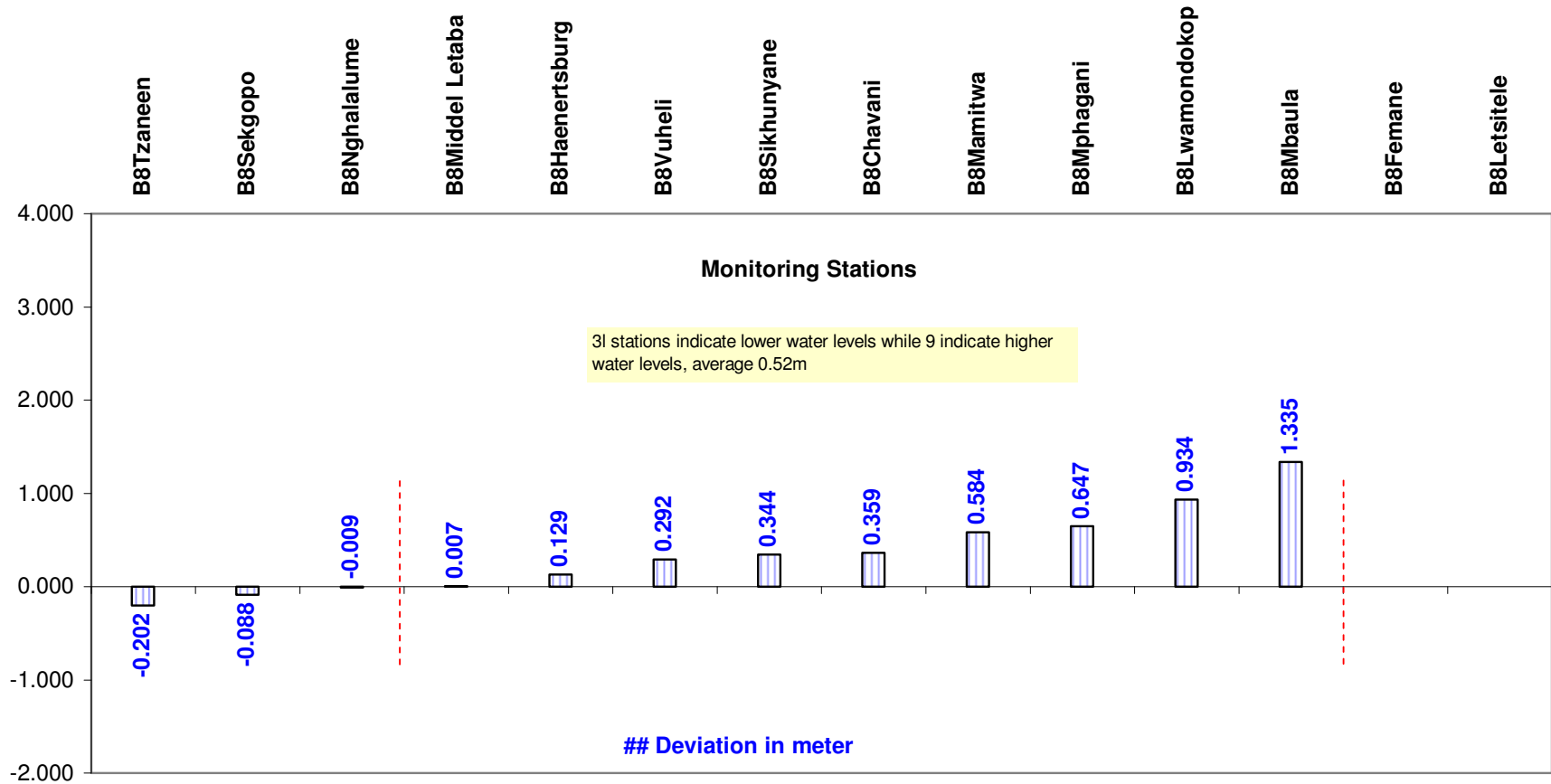
GRAPH 26

**Comparison of water level trends at some stations in B8 drainage:
1 February 2009 to 1 February 2010**



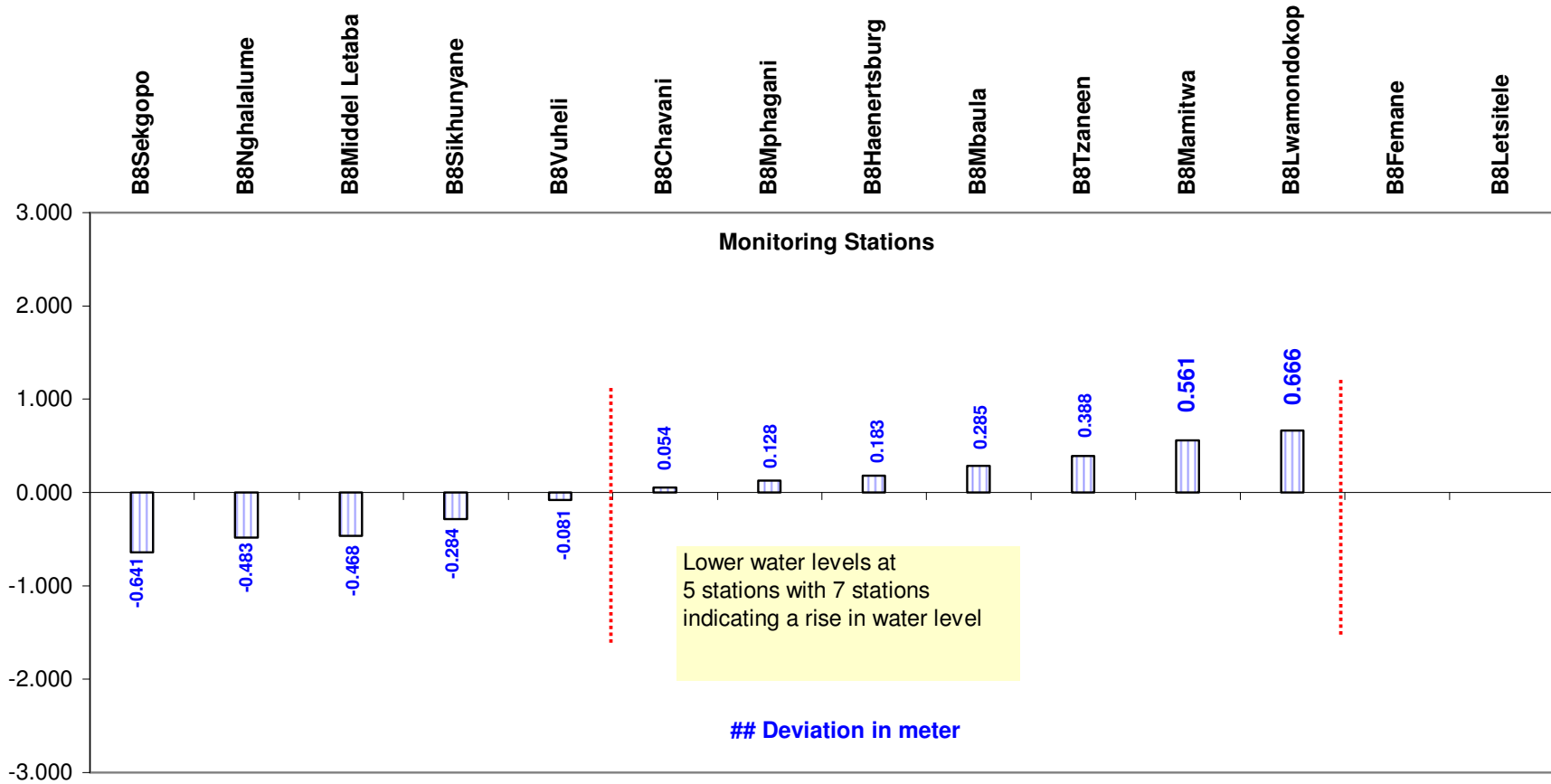
GRAPH 27

B8 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 November 2009 to 1 February 2010



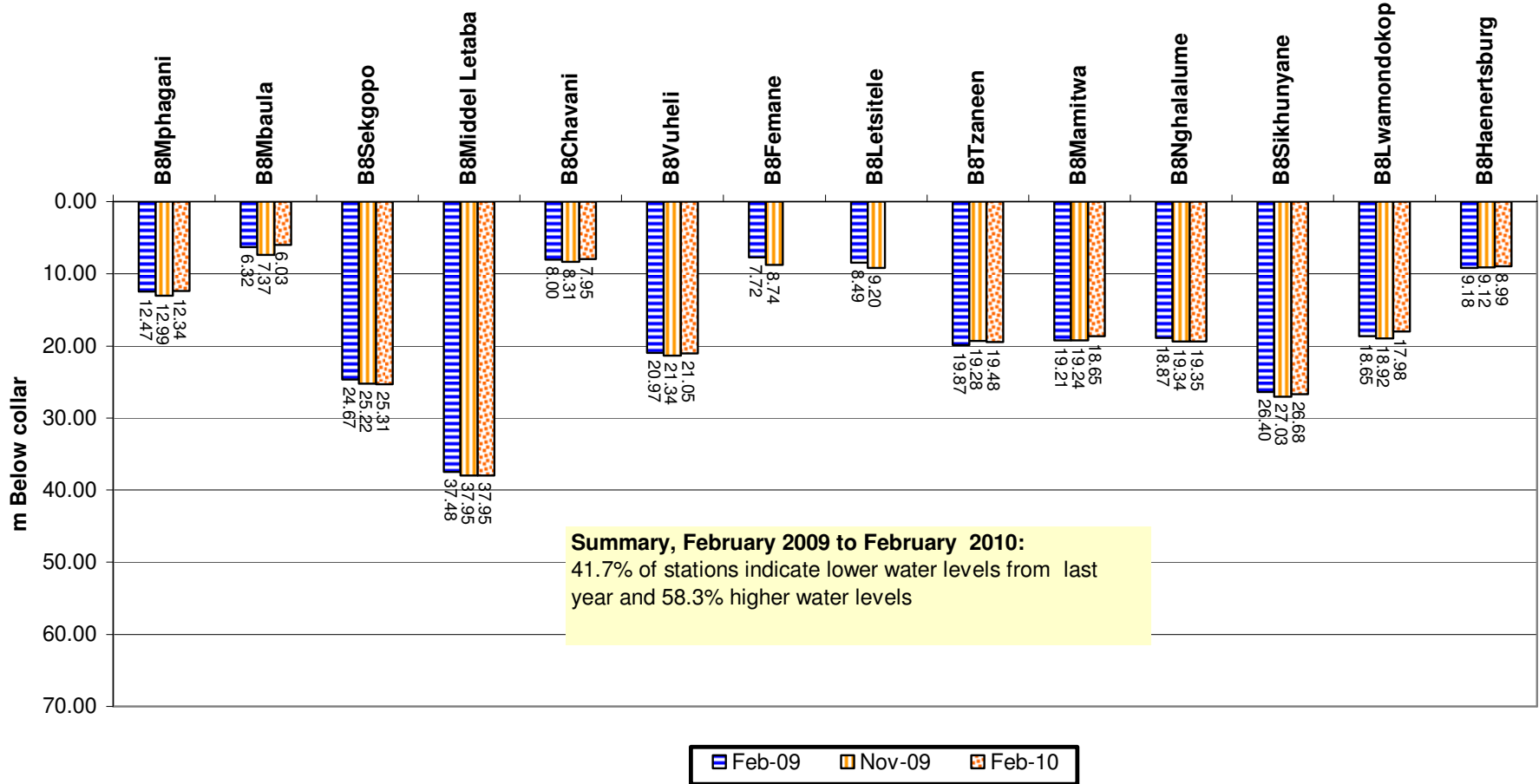
GRAPH 28

B8 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 February 2009 to 1 February 2010



GRAPH 29

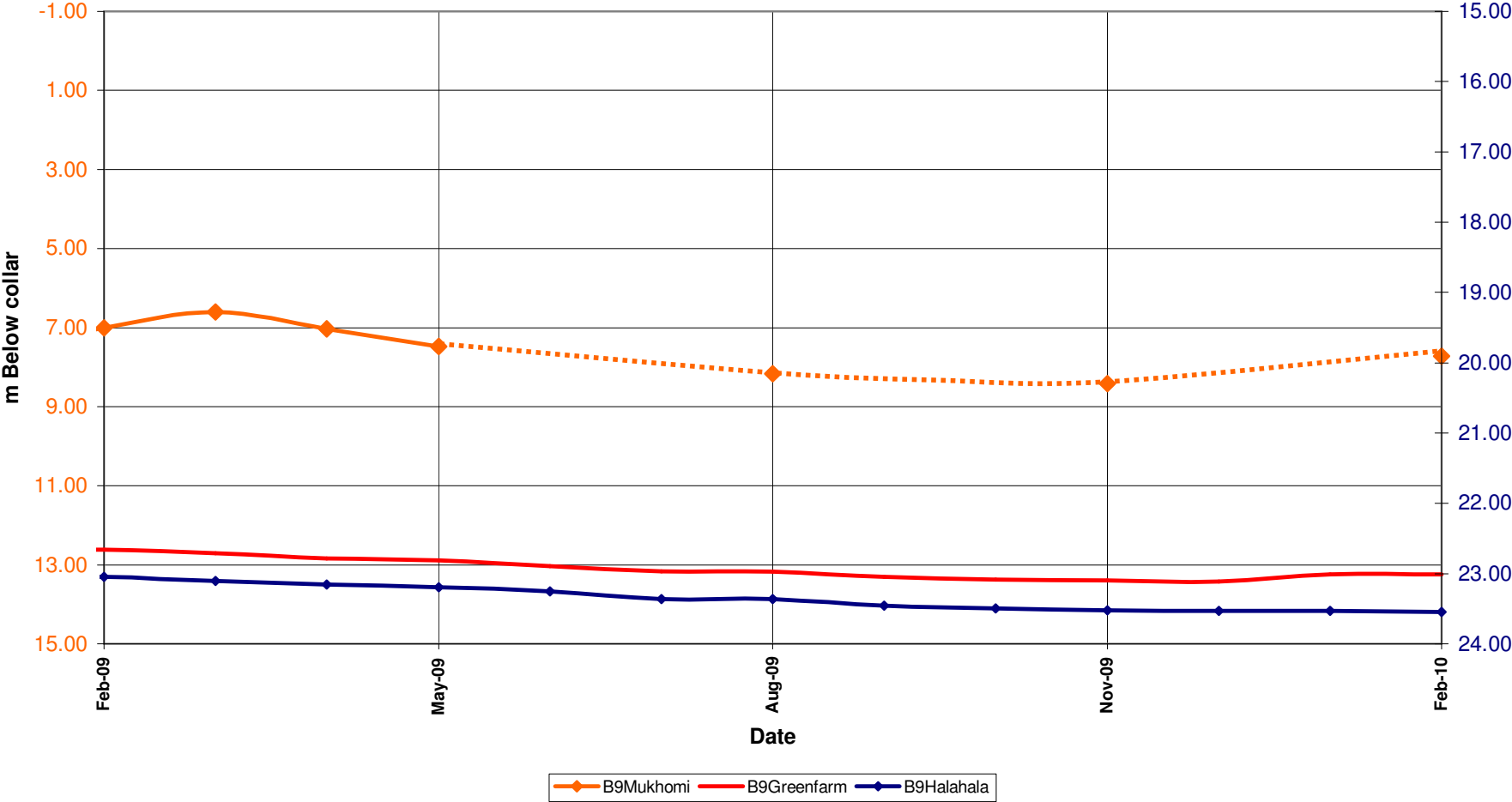
B8 DRAINAGE AREA
Comparison between water level depths: 1 February 2009,
1 November 2009 and 1 February 2010
Monitoring Stations



■ Feb-09 ■ Nov-09 ■ Feb-10

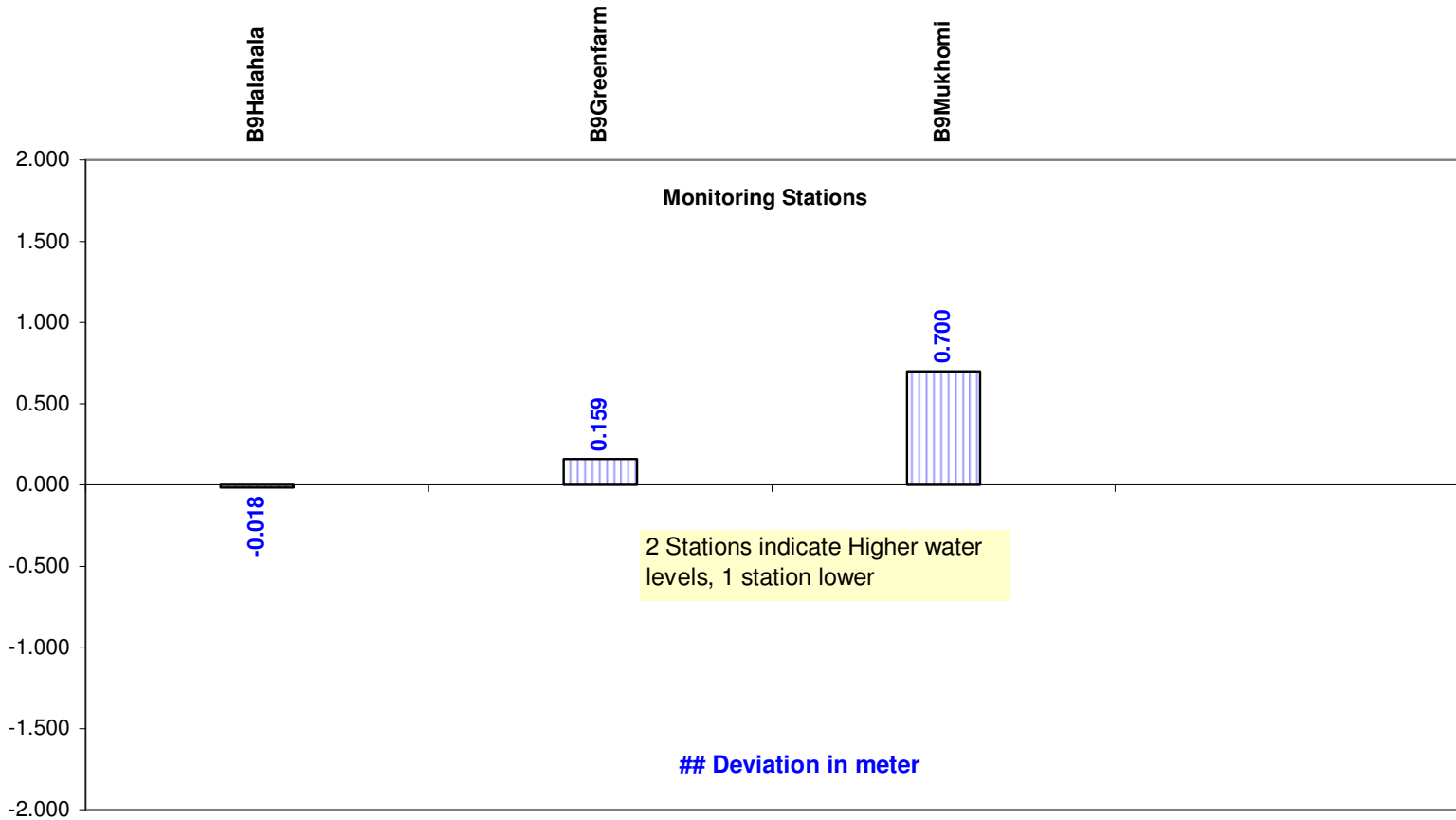
GRAPH 30

**Comparison of water level trends of stations in B9 drainage:
1 February 2009 to 1 February 2010**



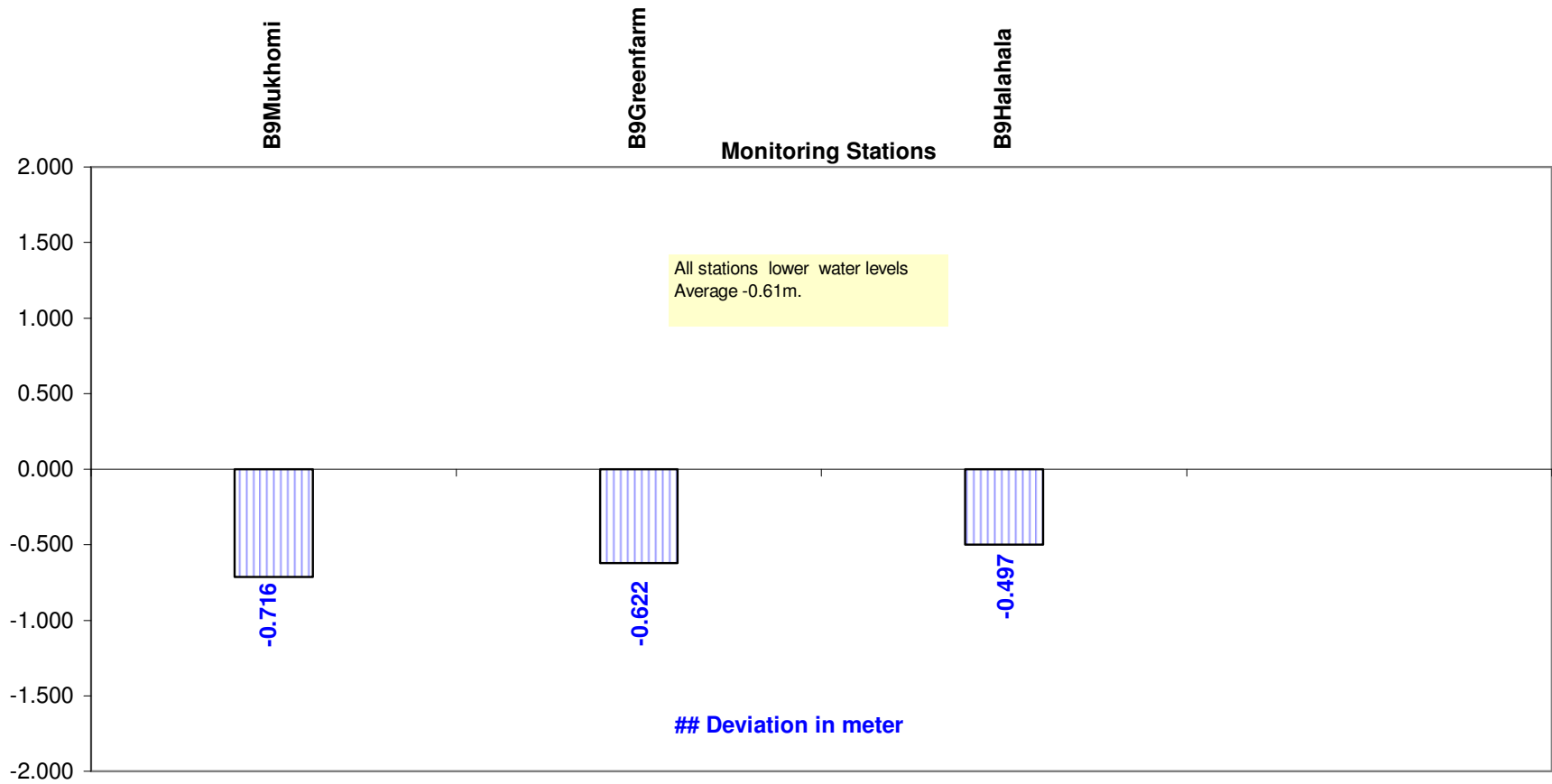
GRAPH 31

B9 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 November 2009 to 1 February 2010



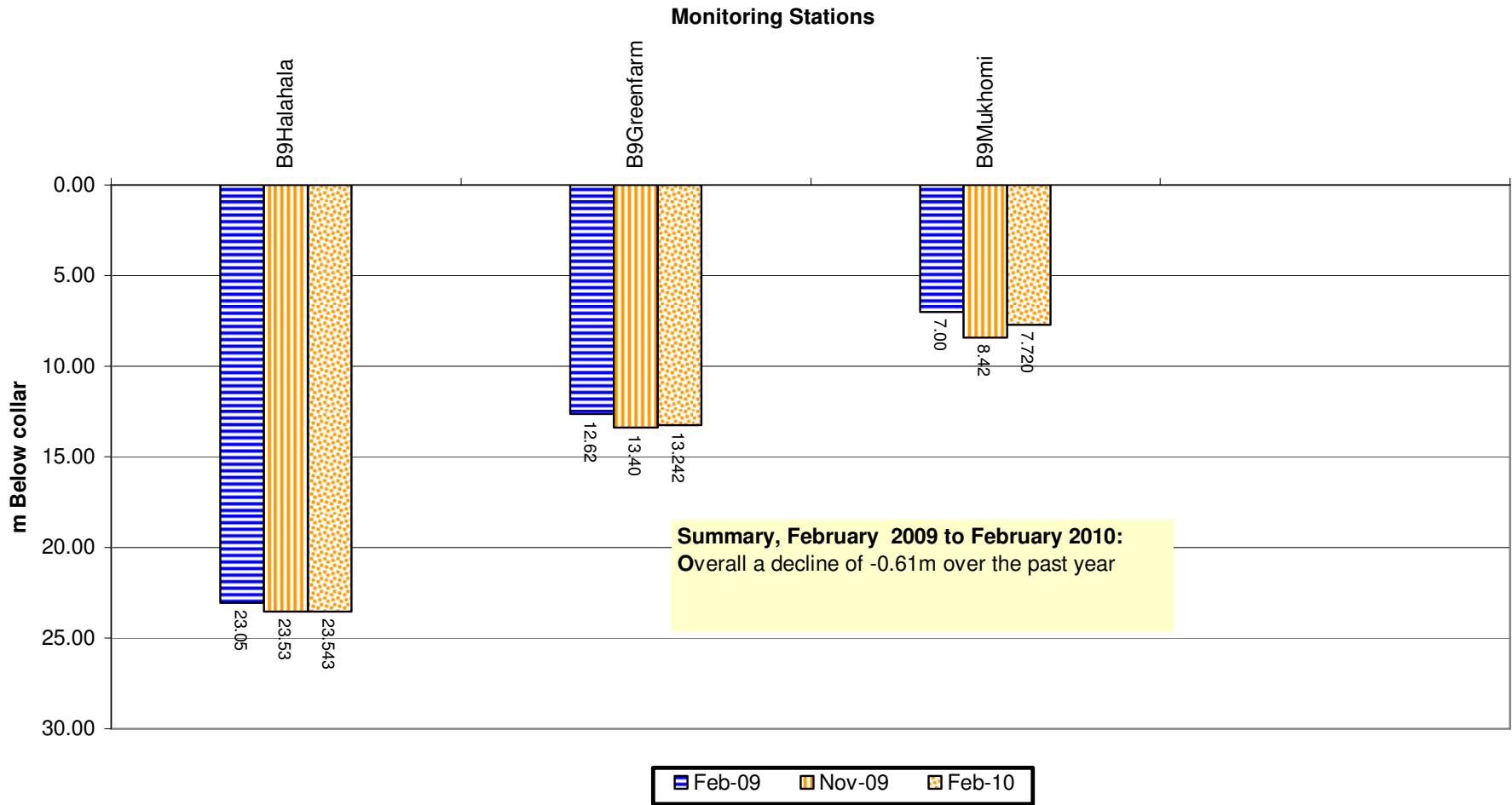
GRAPH 32

B9 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 February 2009 to 1 February 2010



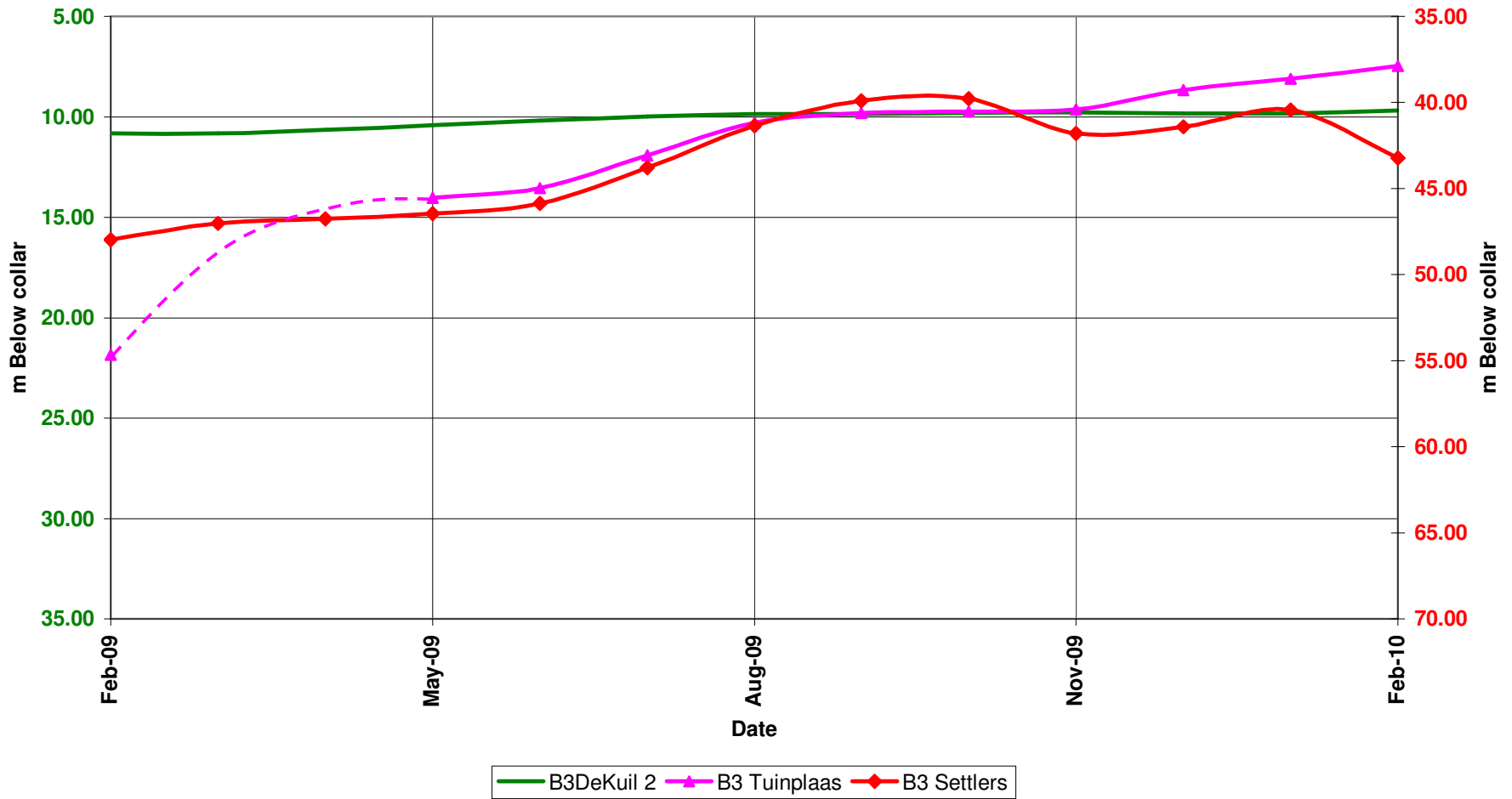
GRAPH 33

B9 DRAINAGE AREA
Comparison between water level depths: 1 February 2009,
1 November 2009 and 1 February 2010



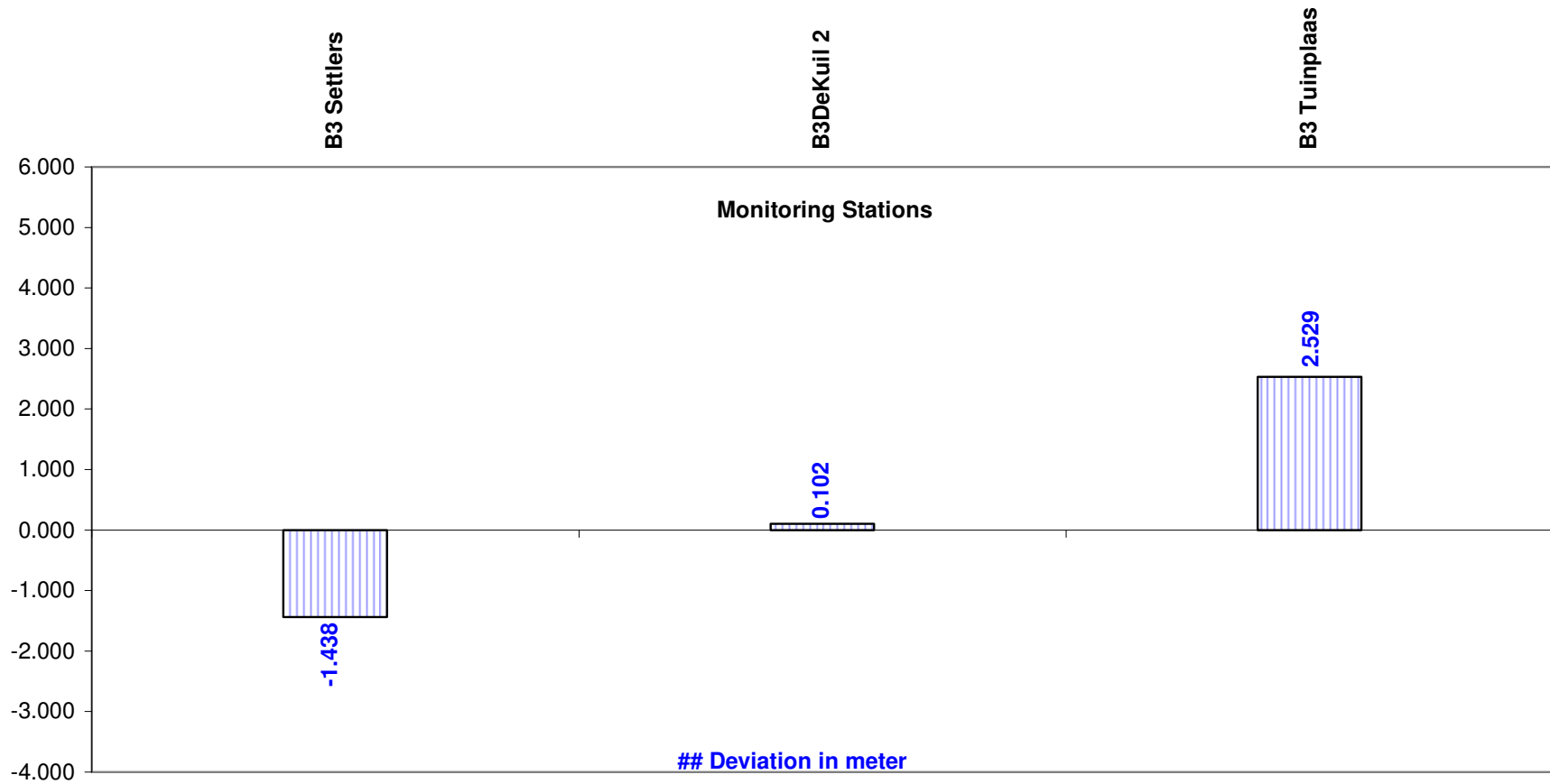
GRAPH 34

Comparison of water level trends at stations in B3 drainage:
1 February 2009 to 1 February 2010



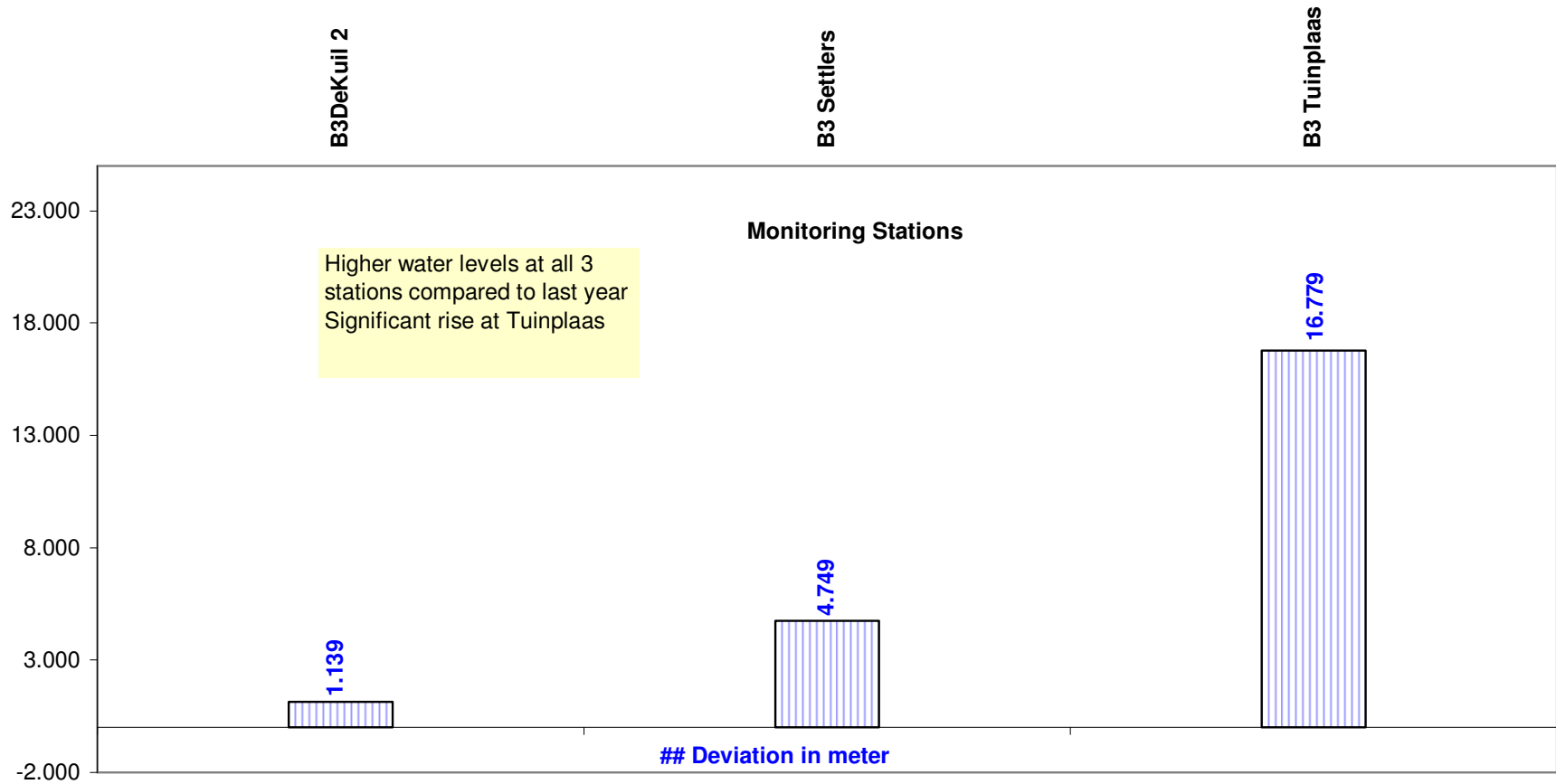
GRAPH 35

B3 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 November 2009 to 1 February 2010



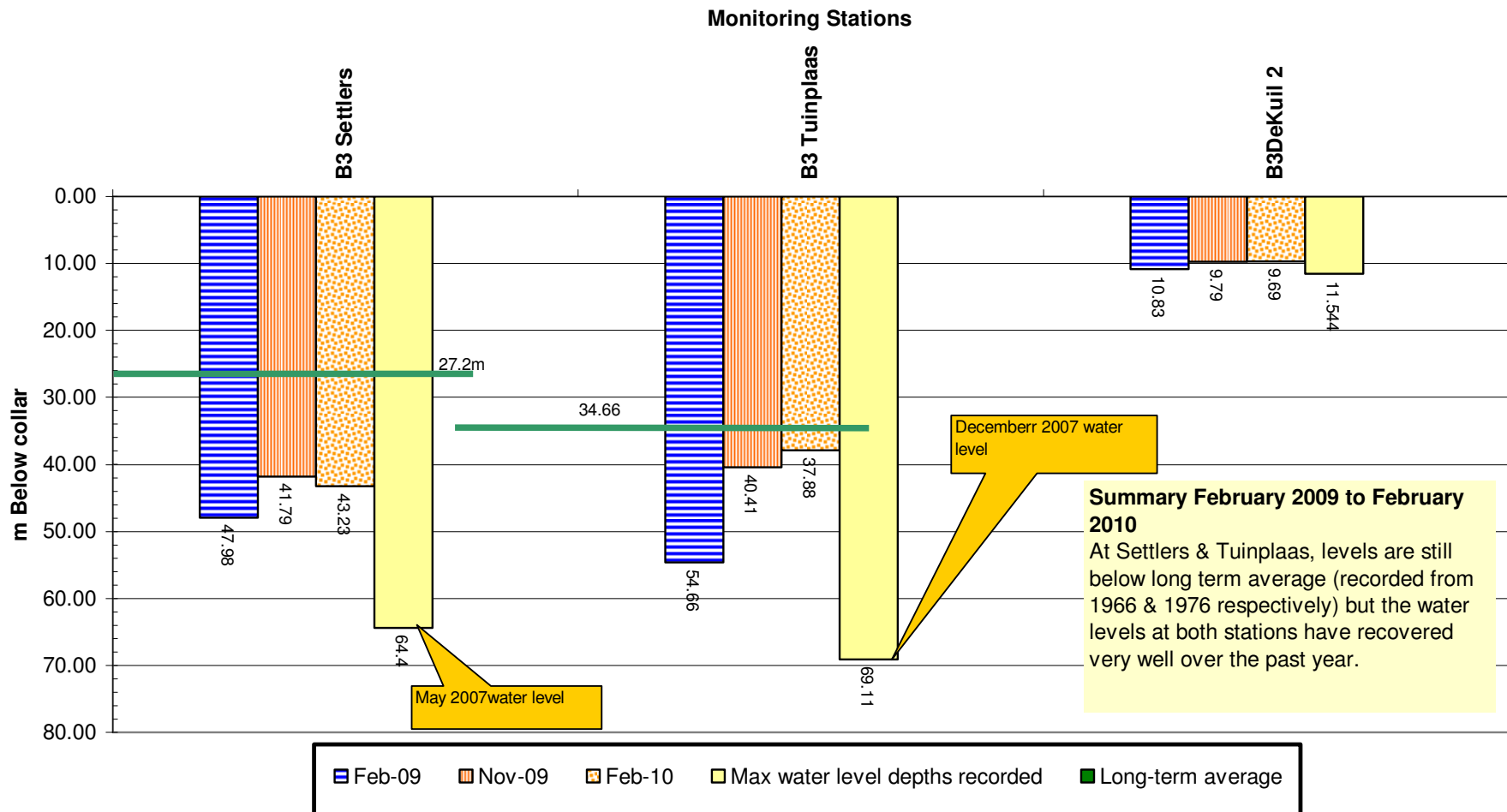
GRAPH 36

B3 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 February 2009 to 1 February 2010



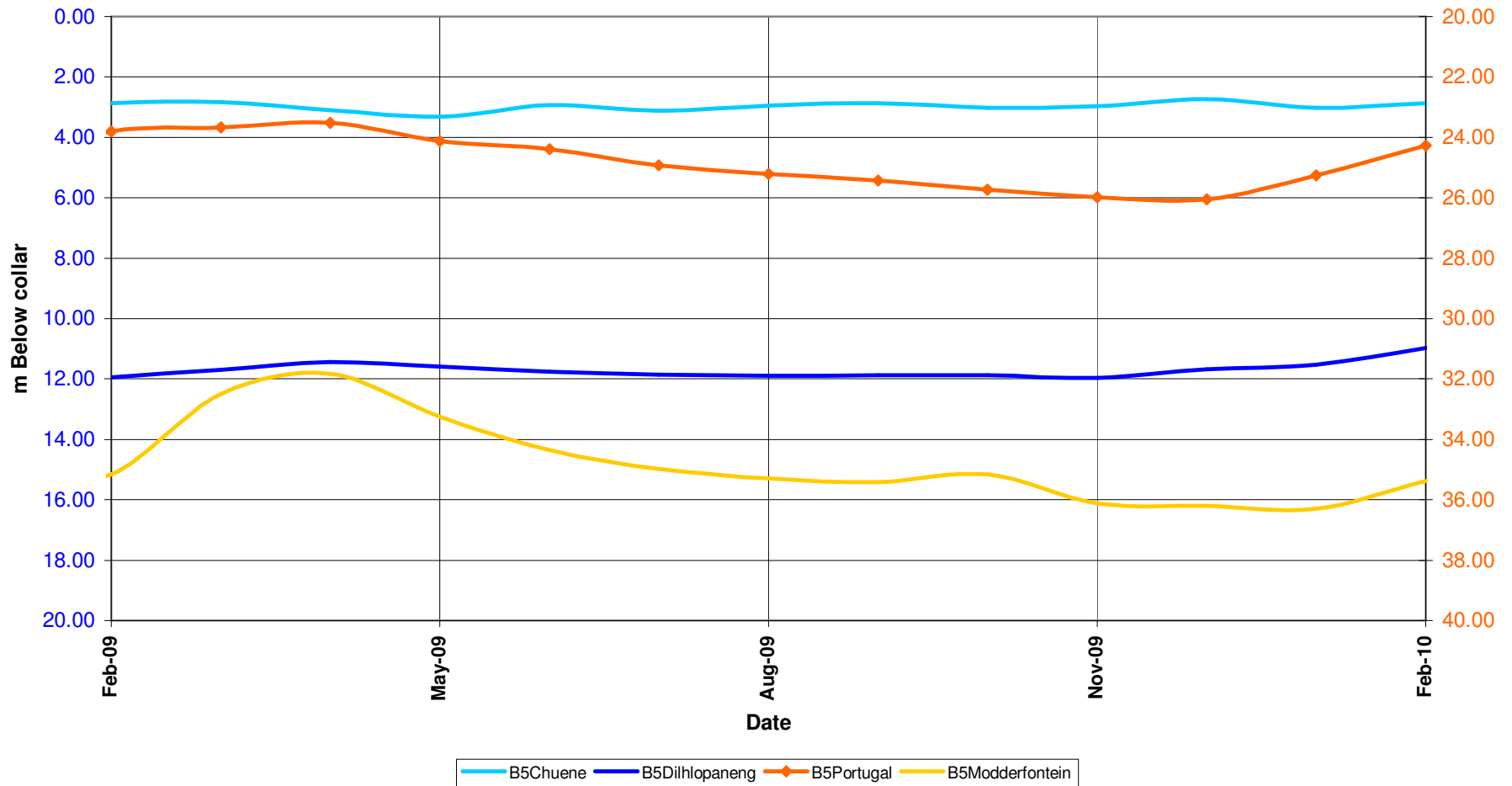
GRAPH 37

B3 DRAINAGE AREA
Comparison between water level depths: 1 February 2009
1 November 2009, 1 February 2010 and maximum depths recorded



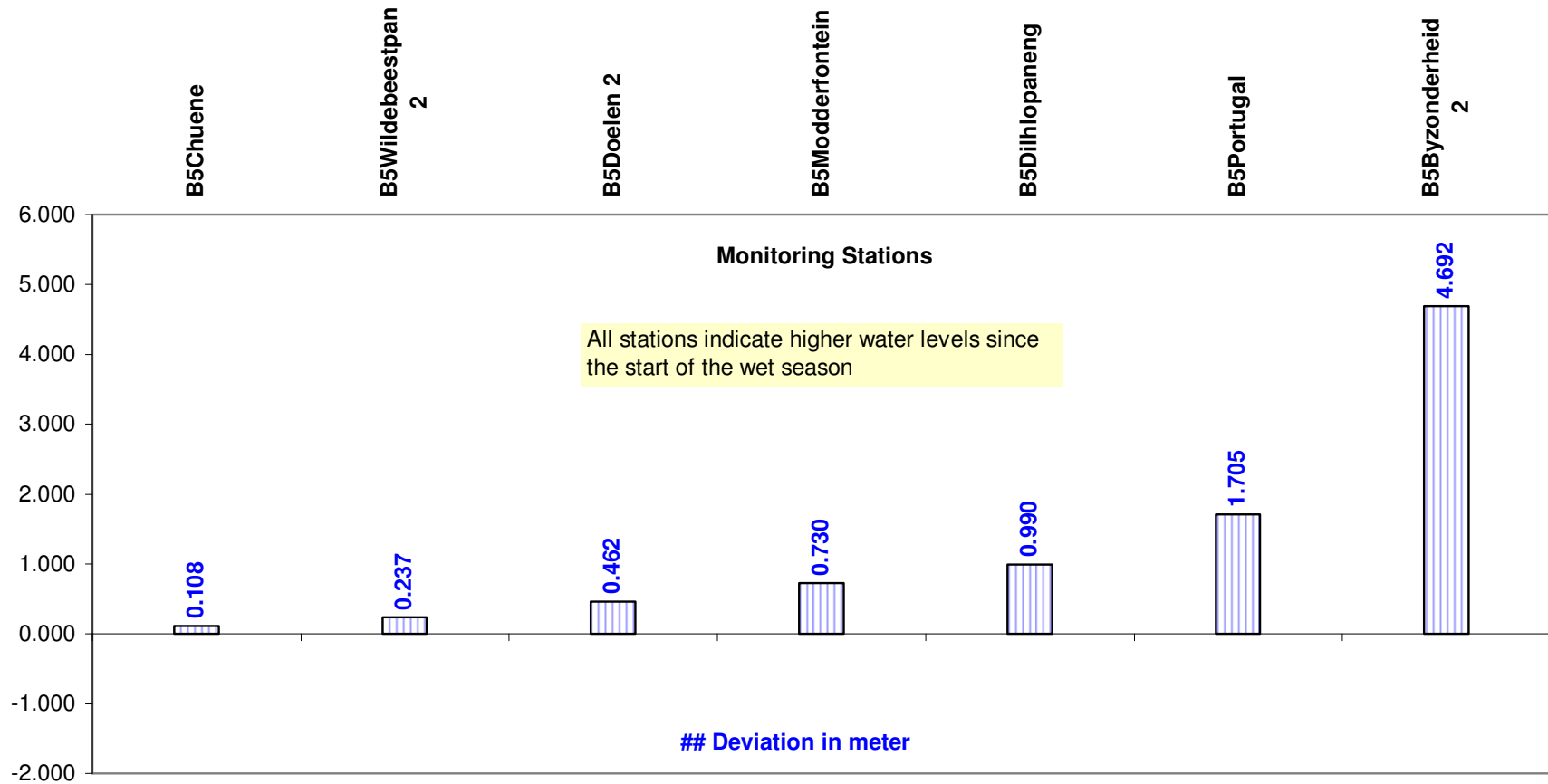
GRAPH 38

**Comparison of water level trends at stations in B5 drainage:
1 February 2009 to 1 February 2010**



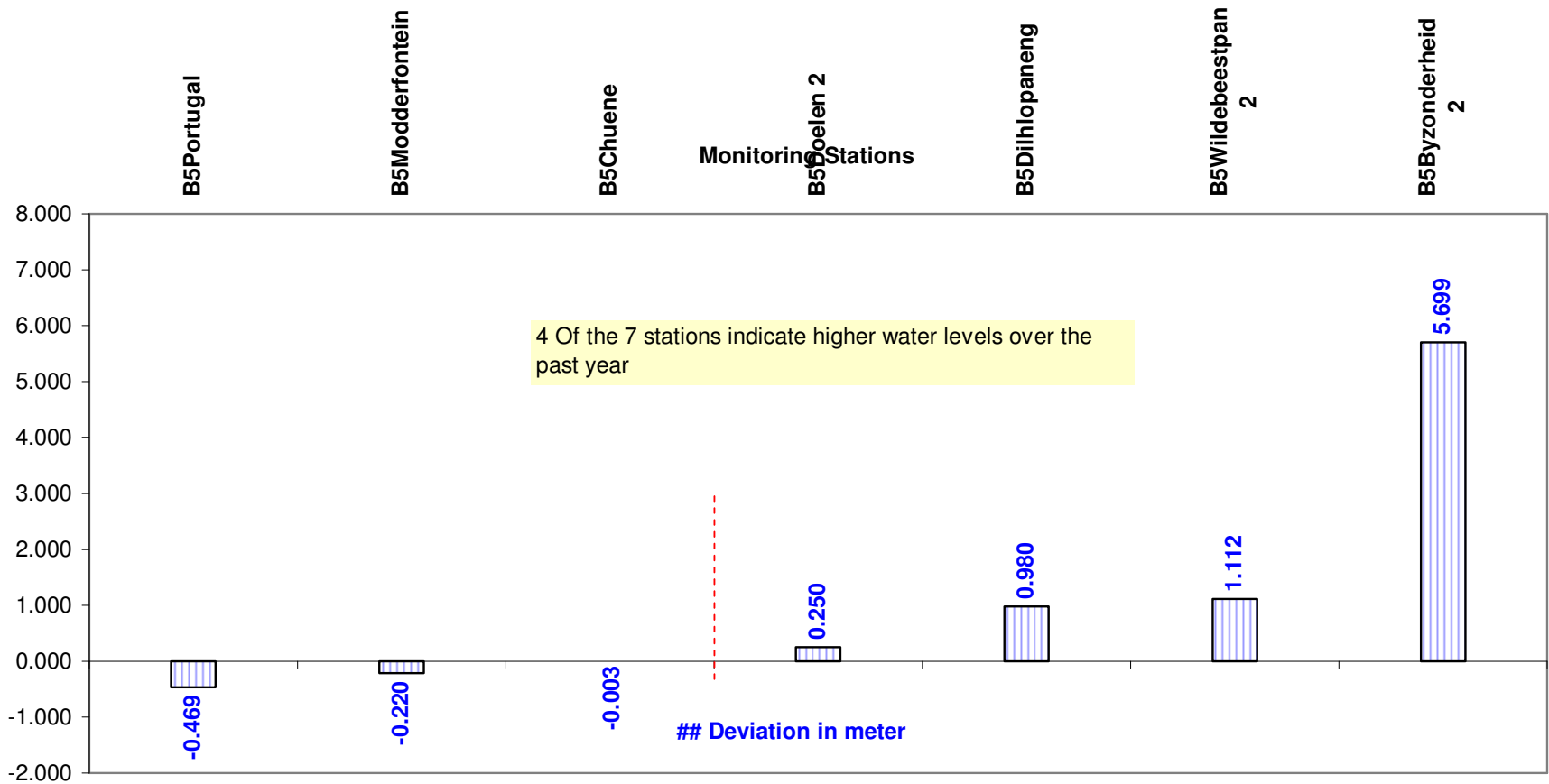
GRAPH 39

B5 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 November 2009 to 1 February 2010



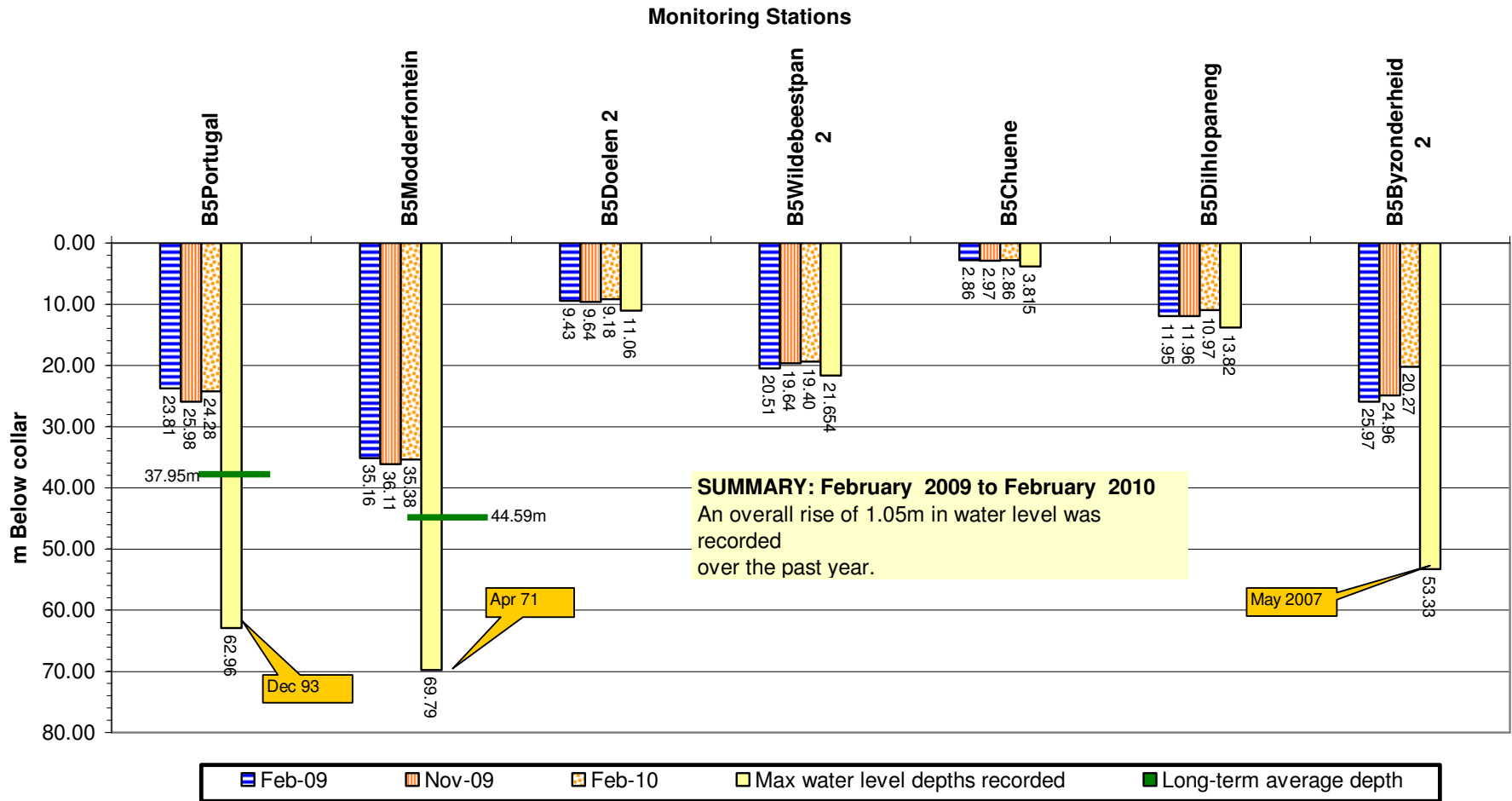
GRAPH 40

B5 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 February 2009 to 1 February 2010



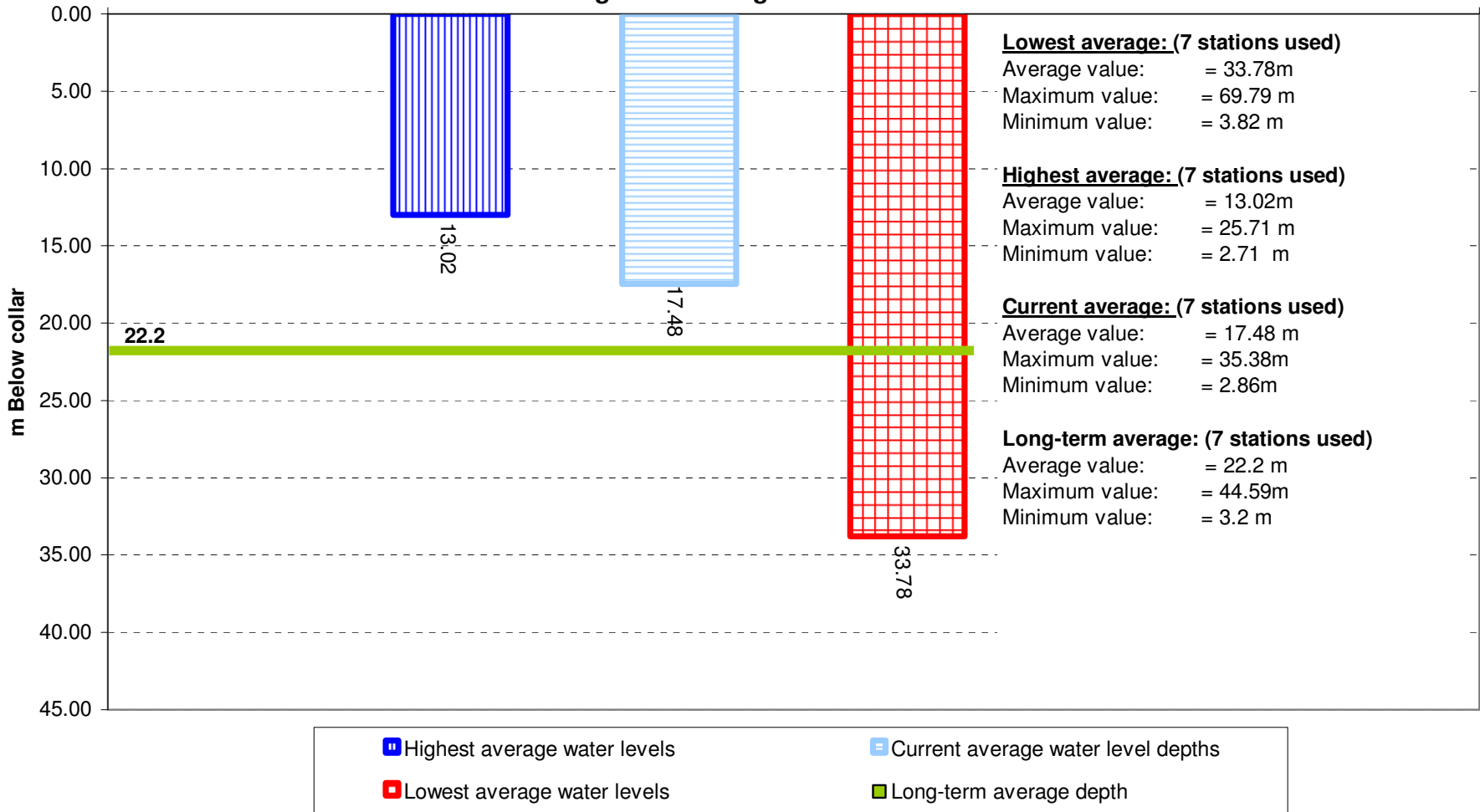
GRAPH 41

B5 DRAINAGE AREA
Comparison between water level depths: 1 February 2009,
1 November 2009 , 1 February 2010 and maximum depths recorded



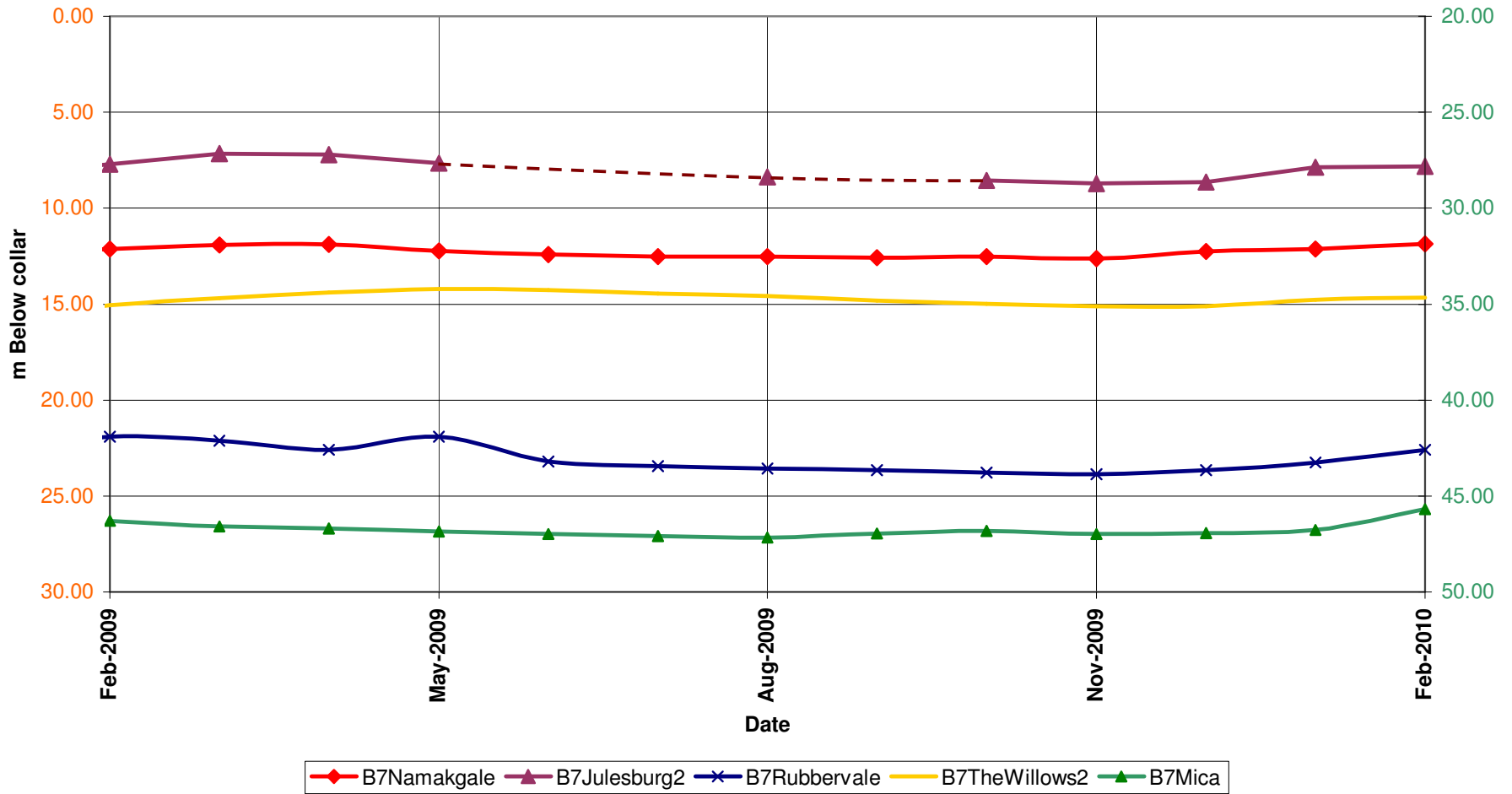
GRAPH 42

B5 DRAINAGE AREA
**Comparison of average current water level with highest,
lowest & long-term average water levels recorded**



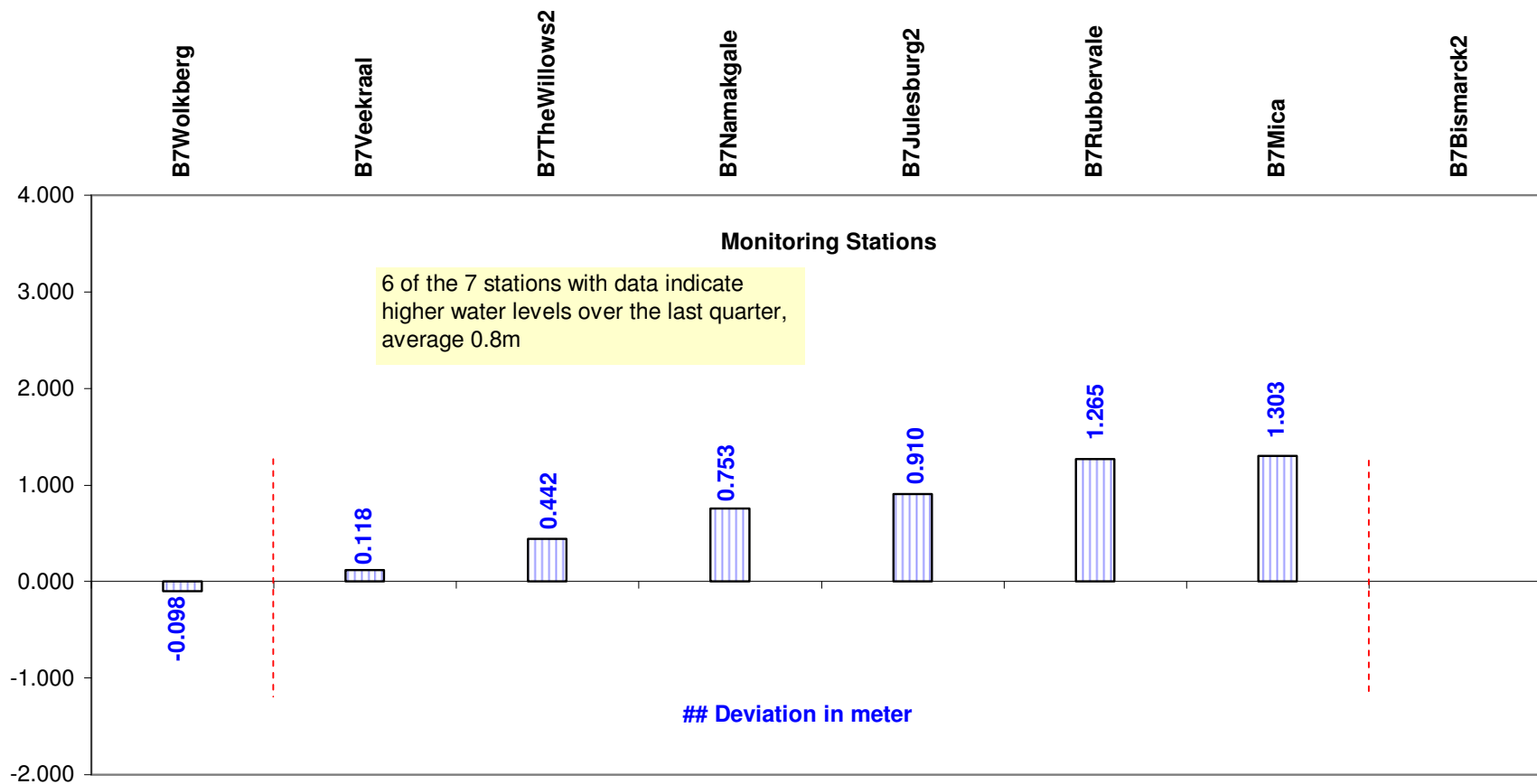
GRAPH 43

Water level trend of some stations in B7 drainage:
1 February 2009 to 1 February 2010



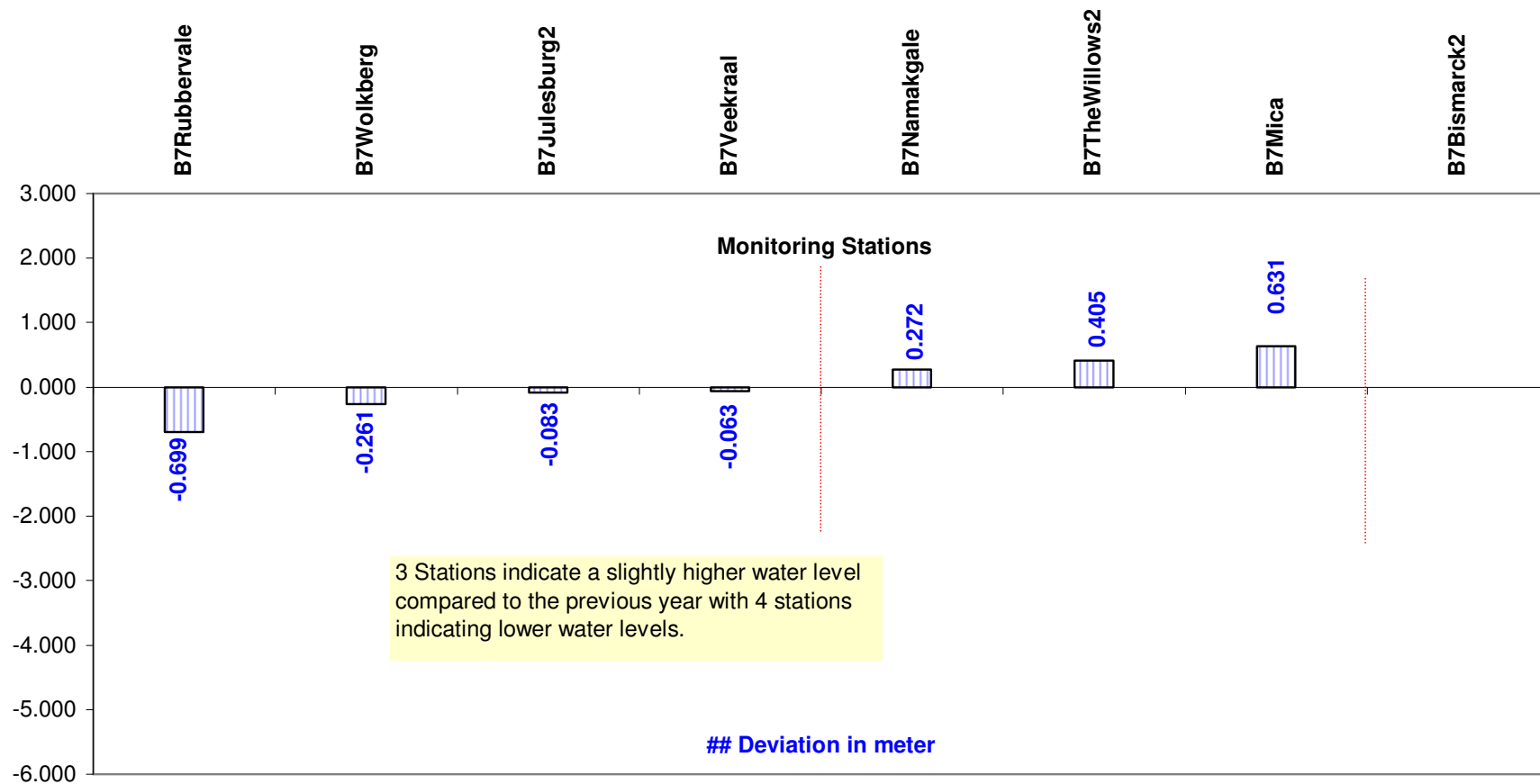
GRAPH 44

B7 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 November 2009 to 1 February 2010



GRAPH 45

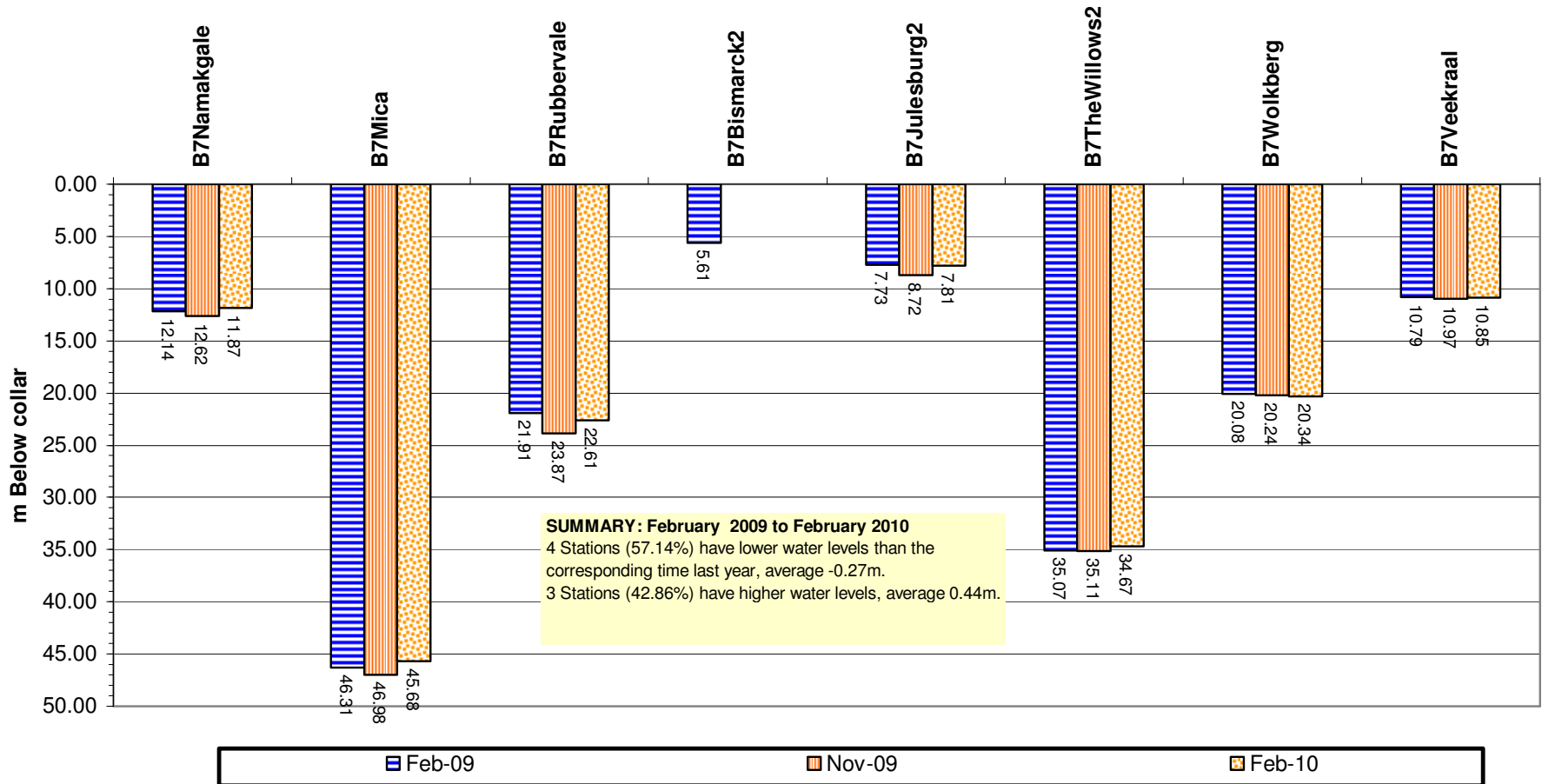
B7 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 February 2009 to 1 February 2010



GRAPH 46

B7 DRAINAGE AREA
Comparison between water levels: 1 February 2009,
1 November 2009 and 1 February 2010

Monitoring Stations



GRAPH 47