



**water & sanitation**

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**WATER RESOURCE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT  
LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

**STATUS ON MONITORING &  
SURFACE WATER LEVEL TRENDS  
April 2015 to August 2015**

**D VILJOEN  
31 August 2015**

**GH4324**



<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2. MONITORING NETWORK</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3. OVERVIEW</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4. LIMPOPO WATER MANAGEMENT AREA</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>A4 DRAINAGE REGION</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>A5 DRAINAGE REGION</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>A6 DRAINAGE REGION</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>A7 DRAINAGE REGION</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>A8 DRAINAGE REGION</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5. LUVUVHU / LETABA WATER MANAGEMENT AREA</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>A9 DRAINAGE REGION</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>B8 DRAINAGE REGION</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>B9 DRAINAGE REGION</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6. OLIFANTS WATER MANAGEMENT AREA</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>B3 DRAINAGE REGION</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>B5 DRAINAGE REGION</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>B6 DRAINAGE REGION</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>B7 DRAINAGE REGION</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7. NKOMATI WATER MANAGEMENT AREA</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>X2 DRAINAGE REGION</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>X3 DRAINAGE REGION</b>	<b>7</b>

<b>GRAPH 1: PROVINCIAL RAINFALL UP TO JUNE 2015</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>WMA STORAGE SUMMARY</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>GRAPH 7: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR MOKOLO DAM</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>GRAPH 8: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR DOORNDRAAI DAM</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>GRAPH 9: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR GLEN ALPINE DAM</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>GRAPH 10: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR NZHELELE DAM</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>GRAPH 11: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR LUPHEPHE DAM</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>GRAPH 12: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR NWANEDZI DAM</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>GRAPH 13: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR MUTSHEDZI DAM</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>GRAPH 14: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR ALBASINI DAM</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>GRAPH 15: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR VONDO DAM</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>GRAPH 16: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR NANDONI DAM</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>GRAPH 17: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR EBENEZER DAM</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>GRAPH 18: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR MAGOEBASKLOOF DAM</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>GRAPH 19: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR TZANEEN DAM</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>GRAPH 20: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR MIDDLE-LETABA DAM</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>GRAPH 21: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR NSAMI DAM</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>GRAPH 22: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR MODJADJI DAM</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>GRAPH 23: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF</b>	

<b>CUBIC METERS FOR RUST DE WINTER DAM</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>GRAPH 24: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR LOSKOP DAM</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>GRAPH 25: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR FLAG BOSHELLO DAM</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>GRAPH 26: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR OHRIGSTAD DAM</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>GRAPH 27: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR BLYDE RIVIERSPOORT DAM</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>GRAPH 28: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR KLASERIE DAM</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>GRAPH 29: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR TOURS DAM</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>GRAPH 30: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR KWENA DAM</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>GRAPH 31: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR INYAKA DAM</b>	<b>34</b>

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is an interim report to indicate the effect of the current drought situation on the major dams with special attention to the dams in the Limpopo and Luvuvhu / Letaba WMA's. The majority of dams used in this report have less water than the corresponding period last year.

In the Limpopo Water Management Area the following dam levels are of concern: the **Luphephe Dam is at approximately 26%, the Nwanedzi Dam is at 35.9%, the Glen Alpine dam is at 56.4% and the Nzhelele Dam at 62%**. In the Luvuvhu / Letaba Water Management Area the following dam levels are of concern: **the Middle Letaba Dam is at 34.3%, the Nsami Dam is at 41.3%, the Thabina Dam is at 58.8%, Tzaneen Dam at 59.3% and Modjadji Dam at 40.8%**.

The average storage volume for the Limpopo WMA is 229.9 million cubic meters (82%) and is 49.7 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year (99.7%).

The average storage volume for the Luvuvhu / Letaba WMA is 422 million cubic meters (64%) and is 134.5 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year (84.3%).

The average storage volume for the Olifants WMA is 1090.5 million cubic meters (76.7%) and is 142.89 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year (86.7%).

**Take note that the storage volume of the Olifants WMA increased with 348.7 million cubic meters, as a result of the new De Hoop Dam** Numerous smaller dams (0.7 – 3.5 million cubic meter capacity) exist in this WMA but only two are equipped with Data Loggers namely Piet Gouws and Molepo Dams. No Real Time data is available from these dams and the obtaining of updated dam status observations are hampered by the remoteness thereof. Although provision has been made at some dams for the installation of Data logging equipment, funds for the purchasing thereof are lacking. The following dams falls within the Olifants WMA, but no status information is available: 1. Piet Gouws (3.94 million Cubic meters), Lola Montes (1.2 million Cubic meters), Makotswane (3.48 million Cubic meters), Spitskop (0.54million Cubic meters), Vergelegen (1.34million Cubic meters) Dr. Esselen (0.73million Cubic meters), Chunnies Poort (2.47million Cubic meters meters), Der Broggen, Lepellane and Mahlangu dams.

The average storage volume for the Inkomati WMA is 832.4 million cubic meters (79.3%) and is 186.7 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year (97.1%).

The challenge in all the WMAs discussed in this report is the fact that there are smaller dams, which supply water to communities that still need to be monitored. Owing to the lack of data these dams could not be included. Infrastructure at these dams are also a major concern and will have to be put in place before any form of water level monitoring can be considered. The Thapane and Sheshego Dams are examples of this.

**The information presented in this report is based on the status of all the major dams in the province up to the end of August 2015.**

**It is important to take note that the rainfall for the current hydrological year (01 October 2014 to 30 September 2015) is the lowest since the 2009/2010 hydrological year. See attached Provincial Rainfall map (Page 7)**

Available water resources will have to be managed with great care and restrictions will have to be implemented as part of precaution measures. The SAWS predicts a mixture of above- and below normal rainfall conditions for the country. Of note there is an indication that well above normal rainfall conditions may occur over the eastern parts of the country in spring. The forecast for late spring indicates mostly below-normal rainfall for most of the country and some mixed conditions for early summer. The El Nino phenomenon is predicted to persist greatly increasing the chances of having dryer conditions.

## **2. MONITORING NETWORK**

The hydrological monitoring network for the Limpopo Province consists of the following amount of gauging stations:

81 river flow gauging stations (excluding canals and pipelines)

21 dam gauging stations

16 evaporation stations

It is important to take cognizance of the fact that the hydrological gauging stations in the Crocodile-West and Olifants Water Management Areas (shared boundaries) are being managed by the hydrological offices of Gauteng and Mpumalanga respectively.

For the purpose of this report and owing to the strategic location and importance of certain dams in the Olifants and Nkomati Water Management Areas, information regarding their status is also attached.

## **3. OVERVIEW**

For information purposes a graph depicting provincial rainfall for the current hydrological year is attached (page 12).

For information purposes a table indicating the comparison of water storage percentage for the different WMA's is attached on page 16.

The purpose for attaching graphs of individual dams is to give a broader picture of water storage and status in the sub drainage catchments.

## **4. LIMPOPO WATER MANAGEMENT AREA**

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

### **4.1 A4 Drainage Area (Matlabas, Mokolo Rivers)**

A graph of the Mokolo Dam (A4R001) is attached as no other dam exists in the A4 hydrological monitoring network.

### **4.2 A5 Drainage Area (Lephalala River)**

Two small dams exist in the A5 hydrological network namely the Susandale Dam (A5R001) and the Vischgat Dam (A5R002). Owing to their relatively small storage volumes of approximately 0.6 million cubic meters in total, these dams have not been included in this report!

### **4.3 A6 Drainage Area (Nile, Sterk, Mogalakwena and Dorps Rivers)**

Graphs of the Doorndraai Dam (A6R001) and Glen Alpine Dam (A6R002) are attached as no other dams exist in the A6 hydrological monitoring network.

It must be noted that the full capacity storage of Glen Alpine Dam is only 18.889 million cubic and therefore the dam fills and empties much faster than Doorndraai Dam! The graph of Glen Alpine clearly indicates this!

### **4.4 A7 Drainage Area (Sand, Blood, Diep, Hout, Dwars and Brak Rivers)**

There are no existing dam monitoring stations in the hydrological network for this drainage area!

Hout River Dam is the only dam equipped with gauge plates. Data capturing and real-time equipment has been installed at Hout River Dam.

#### **4.5 A8 Drainage Area (Nwanedzi and Nzhelele Rivers)**

Graphs for the Nzhelele Dam (A8R001), Luphephe (A8R002), Nwanedzi (A8R003) and Mutshedzi (A8R004) Dams are attached.

### **5. LUVUVHU / LETABA WATER MANAGEMENT AREA**

The catchment consists of secondary drainage areas A9, B8 and B9.

#### **5.1 A9 Drainage Area (Mutale, Luvuvhu Rivers)**

Graphs for the Albasini Dam (A9R001), Vondo Dam (A9R002) and Nandoni (A9R004) Dams are attached.

#### **5.2 B8 Drainage Area (Groot, Middle and Klein Letaba Rivers)**

Graphs for the Ebenezer Dam (B8R001), Magoebaskloof Dam (B8R003), Tzaneen Dam (B8R005), Middle-Letaba Dam (B8R007), Nsami Dam (B8R009) and Modjadji Dam (B8R011) are attached.

#### **5.3 B9 Drainage Area (Shingwedzi, Phugwane and Mphongolo Rivers)**

Only a limited part of this drainage area falls outside the Kruger National Park!  
There are no existing dam monitoring stations in the hydrological network for this drainage area!

### **6. OLIFANTS WATER MANAGEMENT AREA**

Monitoring points in the B3, B5, B6 and, B7 sub drainage areas were also included in this report owing to their strategic location and importance to operational matters in the Limpopo Province.

#### **6.1 B3 Drainage Area (Olifants, Elands, Bloed and Selons Rivers)**

For information as well as operational matters graphs of Rust de Winter Dam (B3R001) and Loskop Dam (B3R002) has been included in this report.

#### **6.2 B5 Drainage Area (Olifants River)**

For information as well as operational matters the graph of Flag Boshielo Dam (B5R002) has been included in this report.

#### **6.3 B6 Drainage Area (Blyde and Ohrigstad Rivers)**

For information as well as operational matters the graphs of Ohrigstad Dam (B6R001) and Blyde Rivierspoort Dam (B6R003) have been included in this report.

#### **6.4 B7 Drainage Area (Klaserie and Olifants Rivers)**

For information as well as operational matters the graphs of Klaserie Dam (B7R001) and Tours Dam (B7R003) have been included in this report.

### **7. INKOMATI WATER MANAGEMENT AREA**

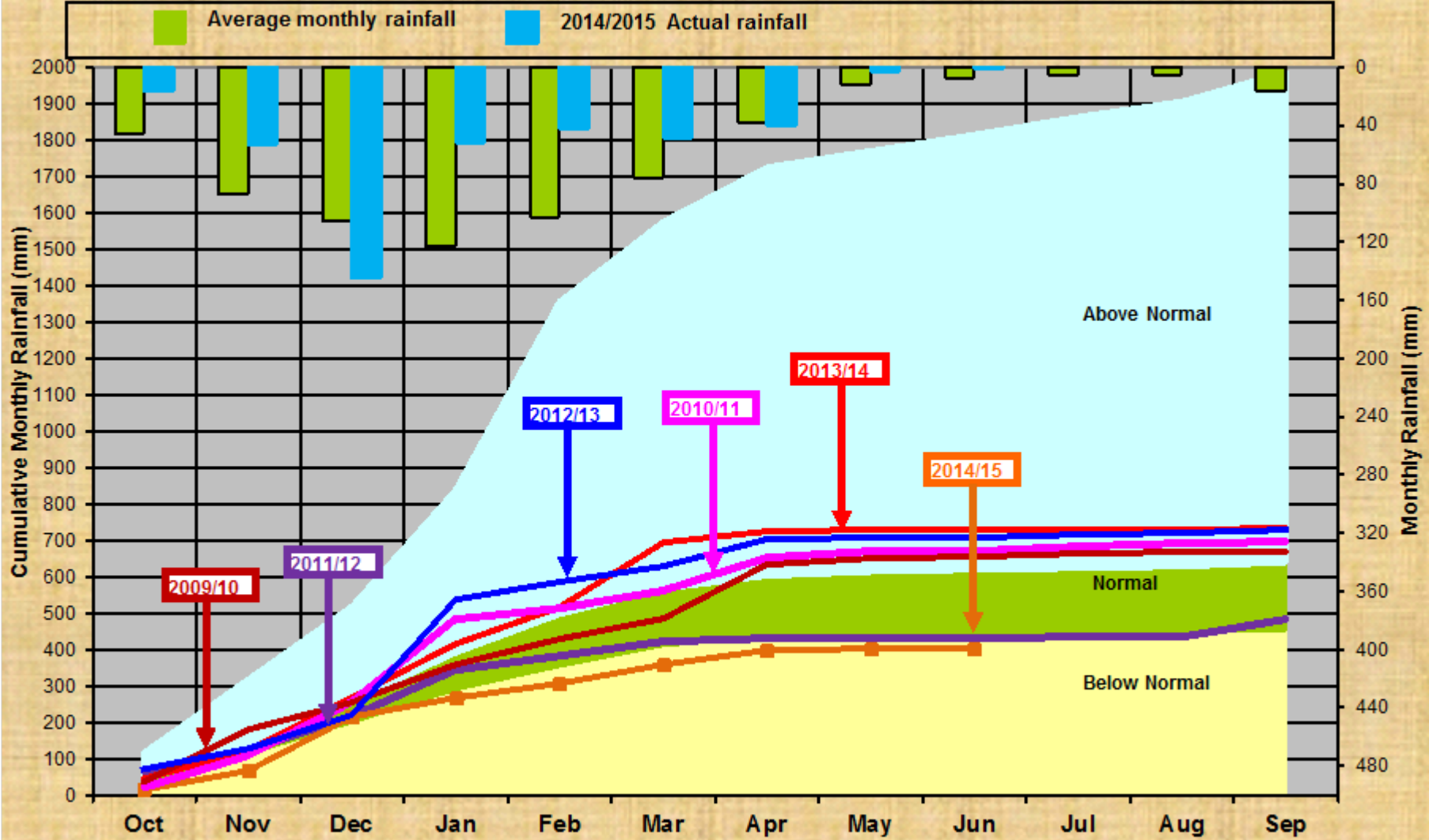
#### **7.1 X2 Drainage Area (Crocodile River)**

For information as well as operational matters the graph of Kwena Dam (X2R005) has been included in this report.

## 7.2 X3 Drainage Area (Mariti River)

For information as well as operational matters the graph of Inyaka Dam (X3R002) has been included in this report.

# LIMPOPO



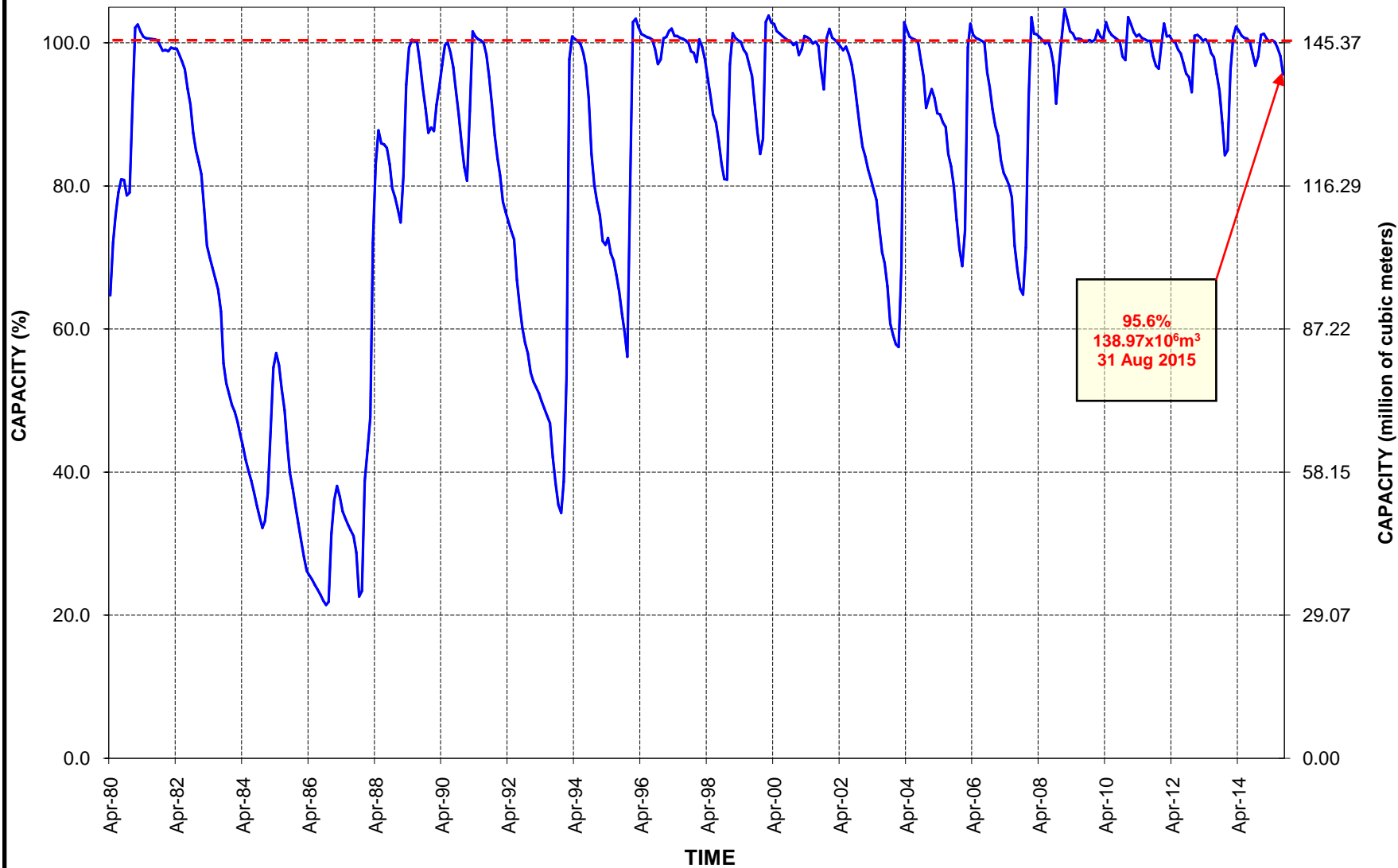
<b>Summary WMA</b>		<b>Full Supply Capacity 10<sup>6</sup>M<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Water in Storage 10<sup>6</sup>M<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Last Year %Full</b>	<b>Last Week %Full</b>	<b>This Week 31/08/2015 %Full</b>
1	Limpopo	280.4	229.9	99.7	83.2	82.0
2	Luvubu/Letaba	652.5	419.1	84.3	64.8	64.2
3	Crocodile (West) Marico	807.3	500.2	76.6	62.6	62.0
4	Olifants	1422.6	1090.5	86.7	77.3	76.7
5	Inkomati	1049.5	832.4	97.1	79.8	79.3
6	Usutu/Mhlatuze	3276.2	1948.9	77.1	59.8	59.5
7	Thukela	1254.5	1026.3	88.3	82.5	81.8
8	Upper Vaal	5659.2	4561.8	92.0	81.1	80.6
9	Middle Vaal	1671.6	855.0	81.1	52.3	51.1
10	Lower Vaal	108.5	77.0	91.9	74.3	71.0
11	Mvoti/Umzimkulu	801.9	539.2	84.3	67.9	67.2
12	Mzimvubu/Keiskamma	1091.6	994.1	91.9	91.5	91.1
13	Upper Orange	11428.3	8318.9	81.4	73.5	72.8
14	Lower Orange	36.1	38.2	107.7	106.3	105.9
15	Fish/Tsitsikamma	725.2	435.3	53.9	59.3	60.0
16	Gouritz	268.3	144.4	79.3	53.7	53.8
17	Olifants/Doom	128.2	112.5	95.9	85.1	87.8
18	Breede	1041.0	712.2	92.1	67.4	68.4
19	Berg	416.5	301.7	100.8	72.4	72.4
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		32119.5	23137.7	84.5	72.5	72.0

**Please note** that the above summaries are not representative of all dams within any of the Provinces or Water Management Areas.

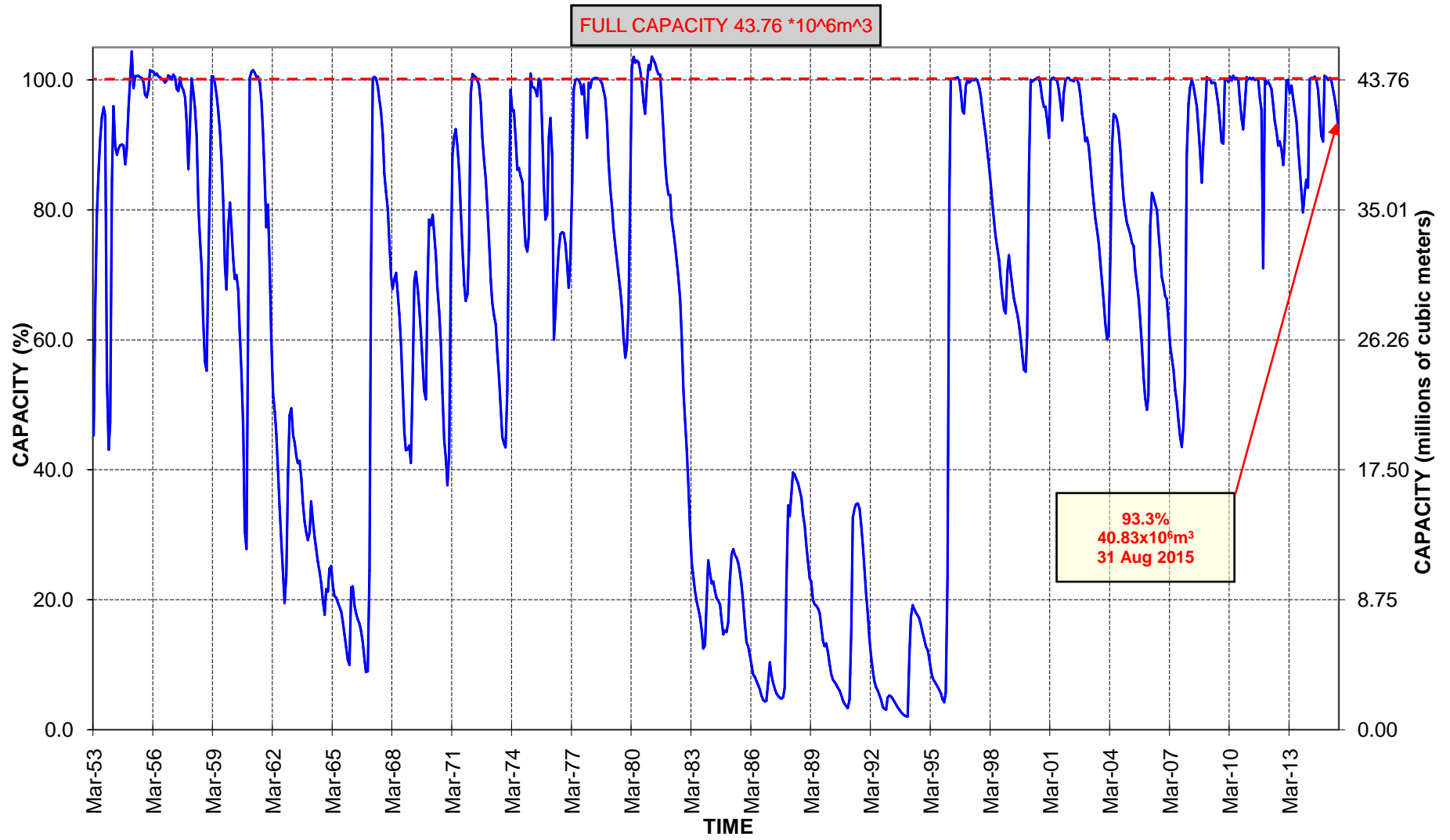
The summaries only reflect the storages for those dams listed in the Weekly State of Reservoirs Report.

### MOGOL RIVER AT MOKOLO DAM

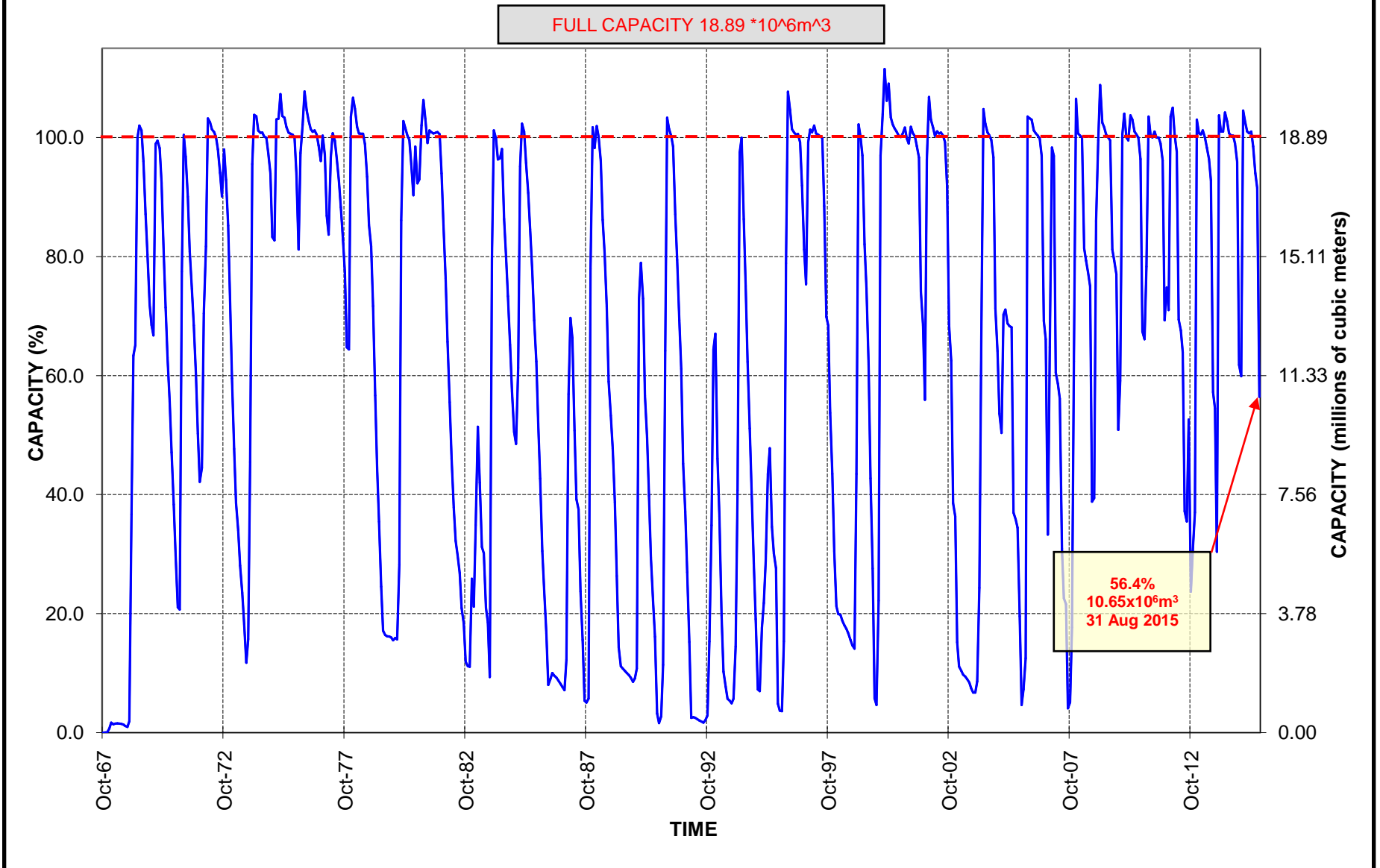
FULL CAPACITY  $145.37 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$



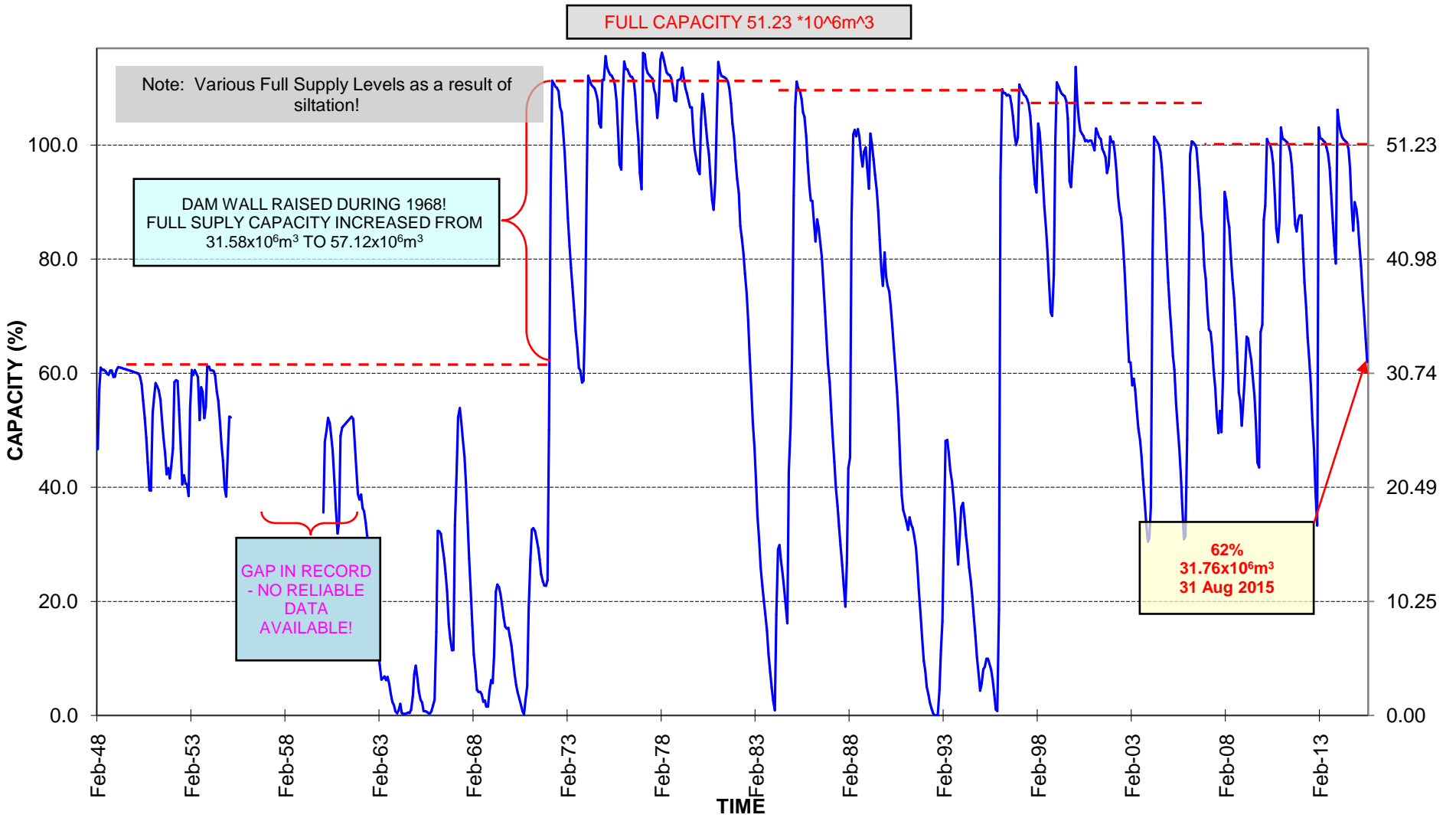
# STERK RIVER AT DOORNDRAAI DAM



# MOKGALAKWENA RIVER AT GLEN ALPINE DAM

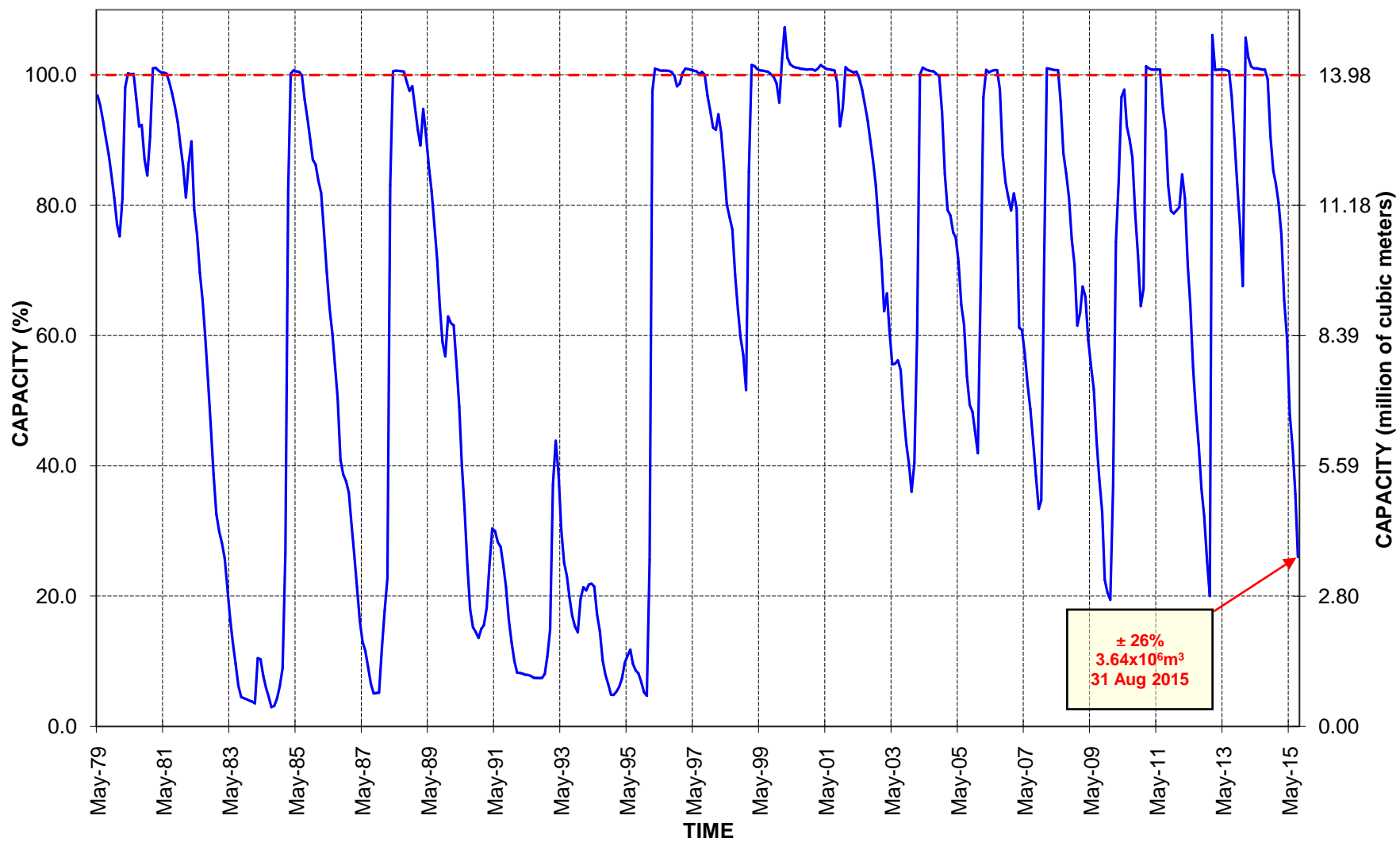


# NZHELELE RIVER AT NZHELELE DAM



# LUPHEPHE RIVER AT LUPHEPHE DAM

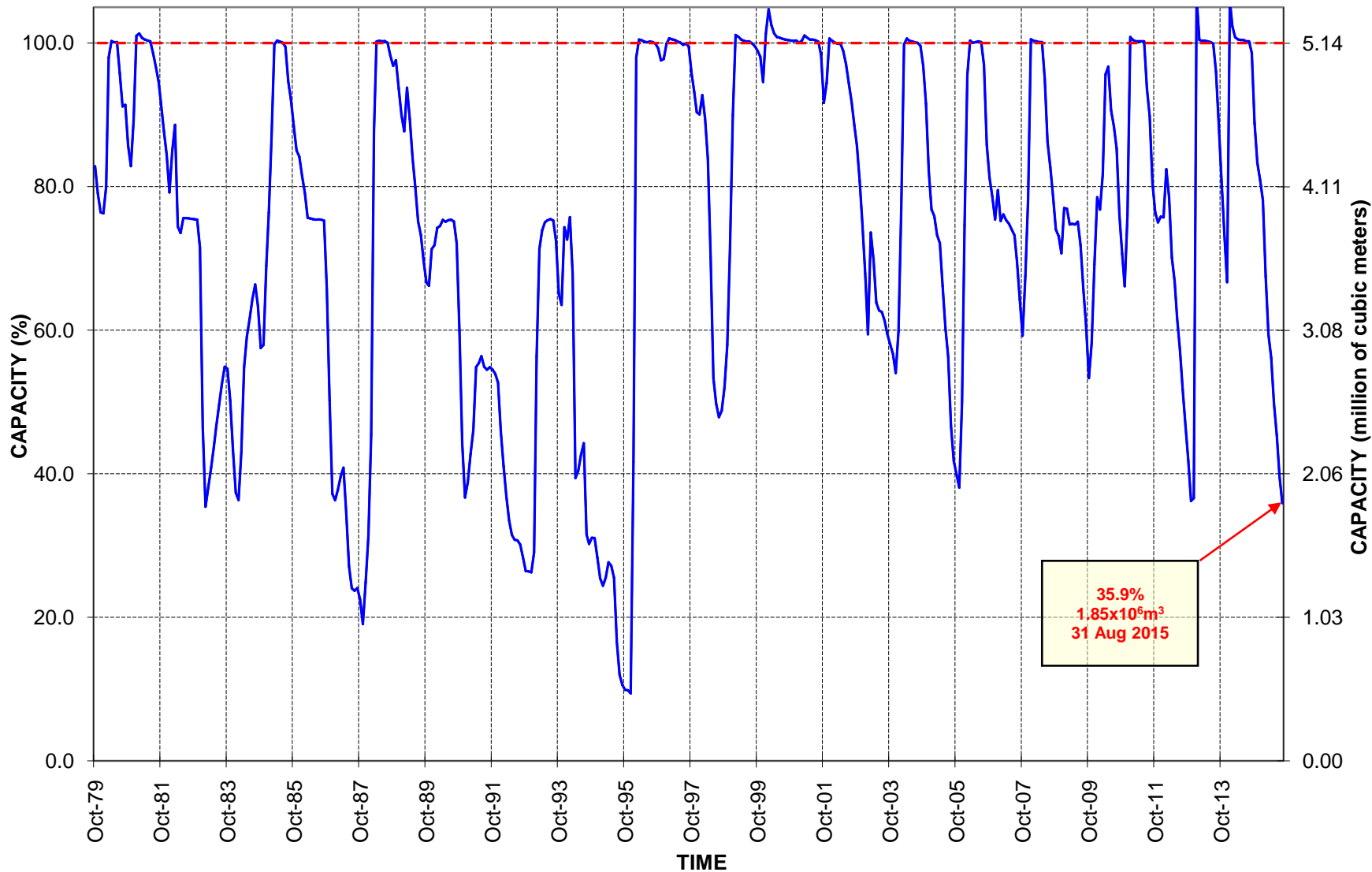
FULL CAPACITY  $13.984 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$



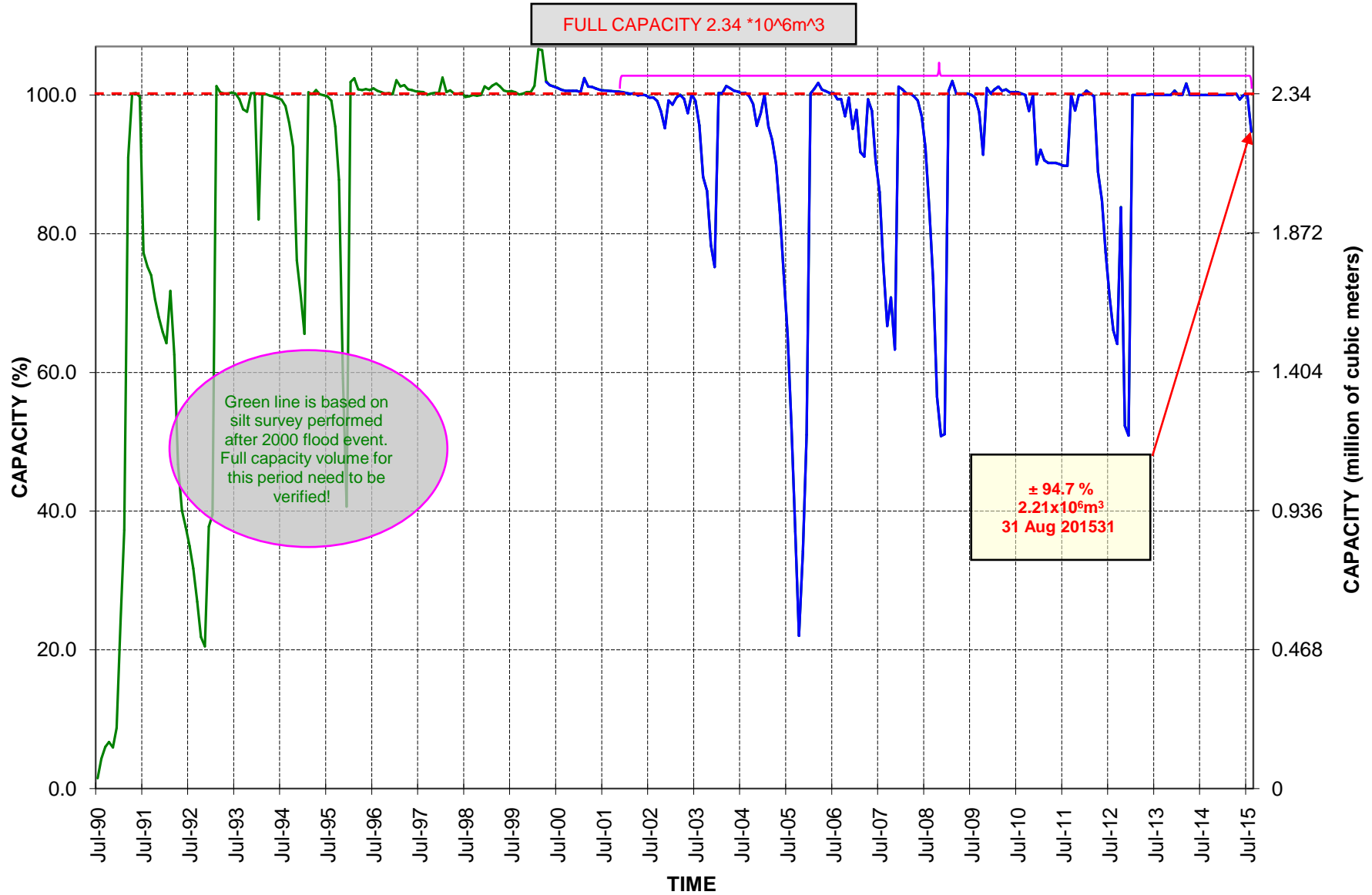
± 26%  
 $3.64 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$   
31 Aug 2015

# NWANEDZI RIVER AT NWANEDZI DAM

FULL CAPACITY  $5.14 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$

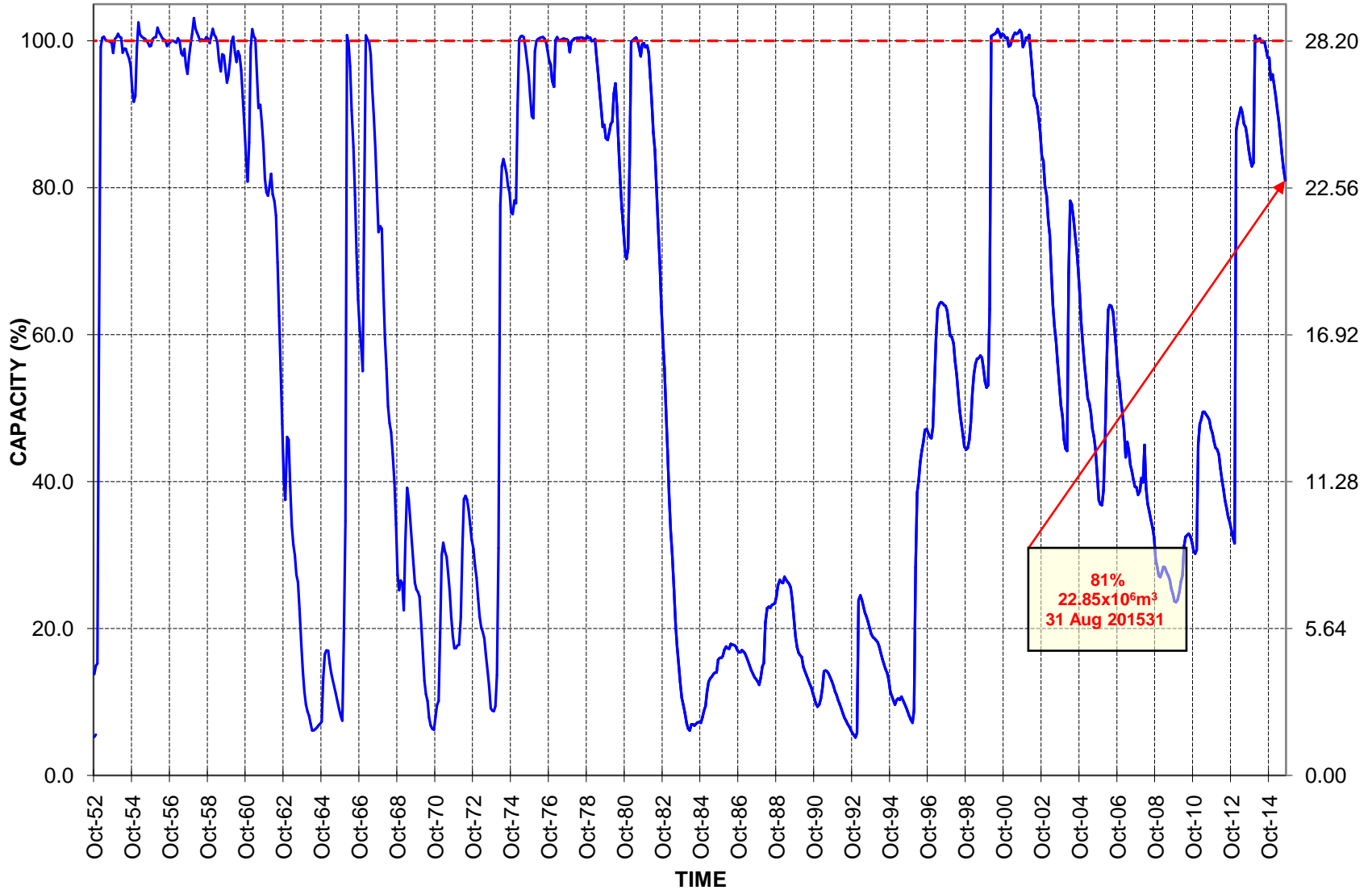


# MUTSHEDZI RIVER AT MUTSHEDZI DAM

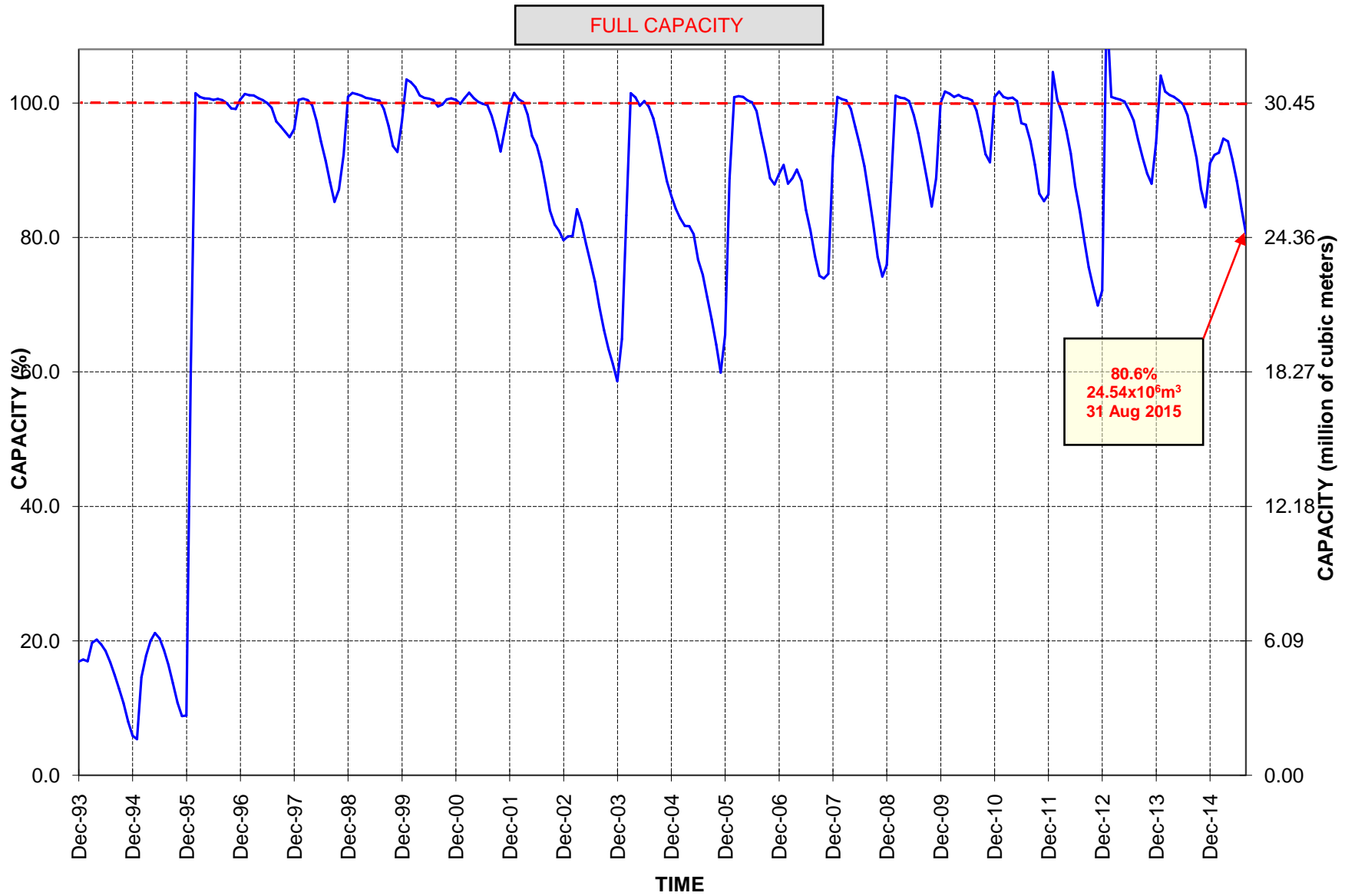


# LUVUVHU RIVER AT ALBASINI DAM

FULL CAPACITY  $28.21 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$

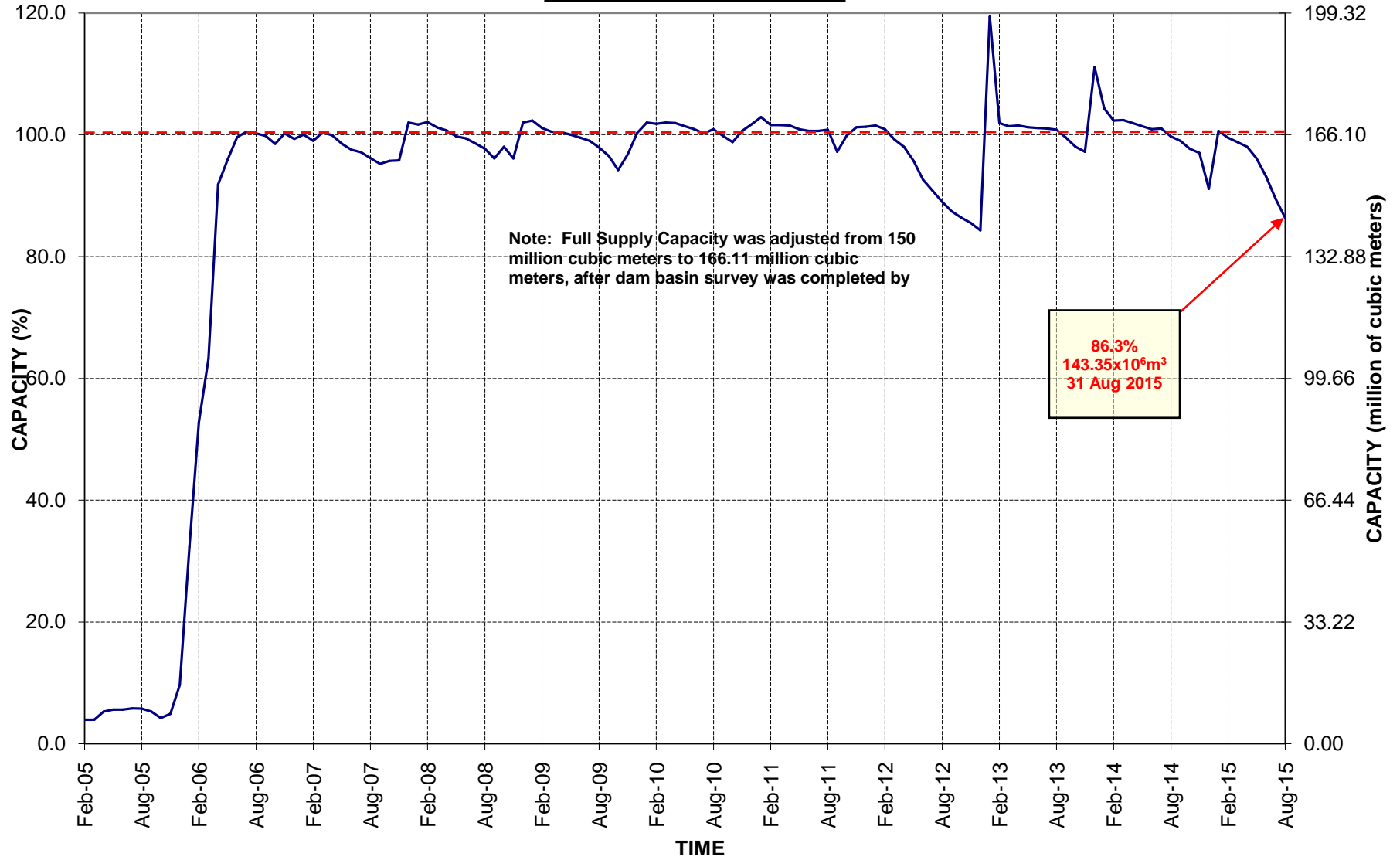


# MUTSHINDUDI RIVER AT VONDO DAM



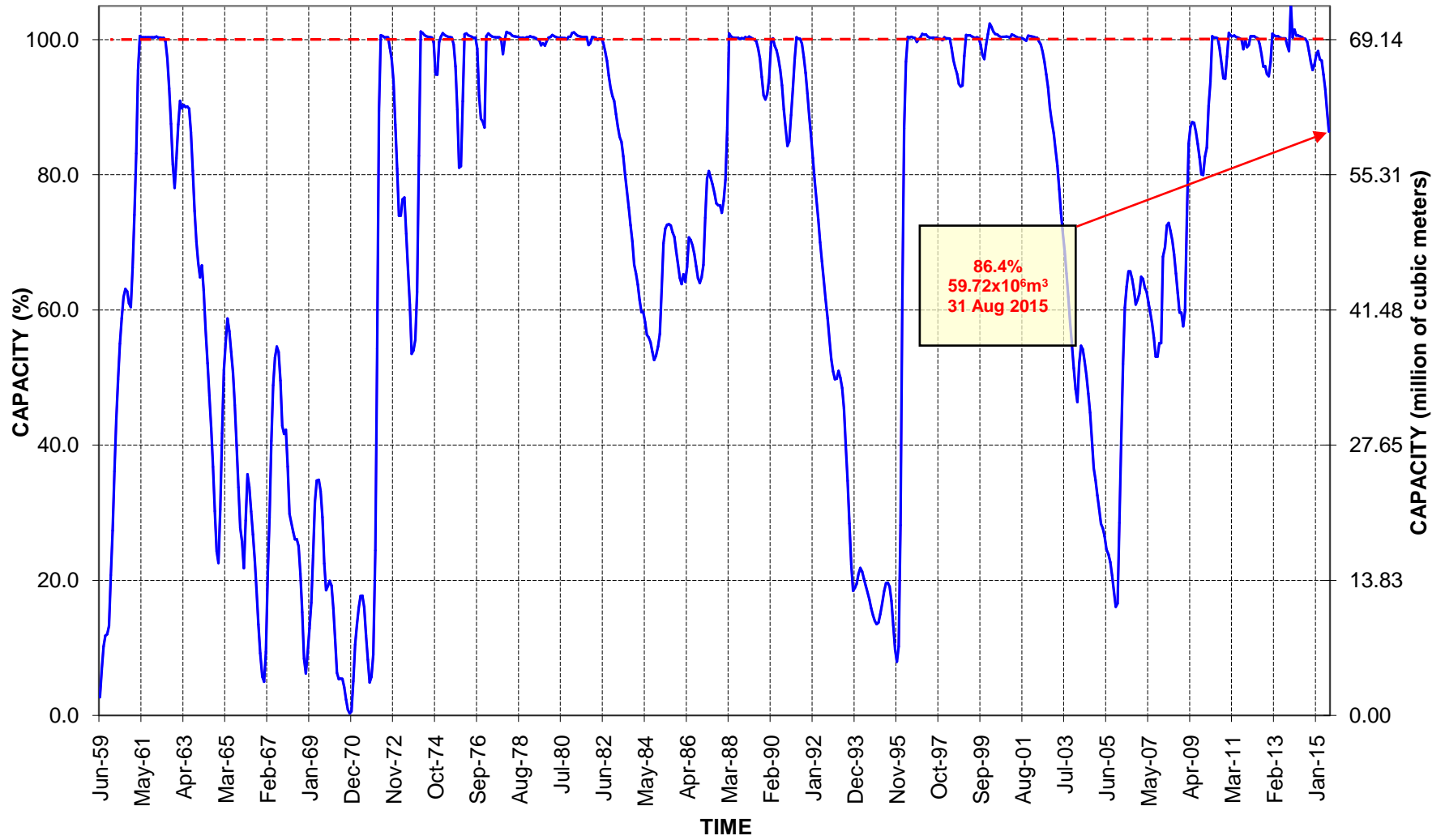
# LUVUVHU RIVER AT NANDONI DAM

FULL CAPACITY

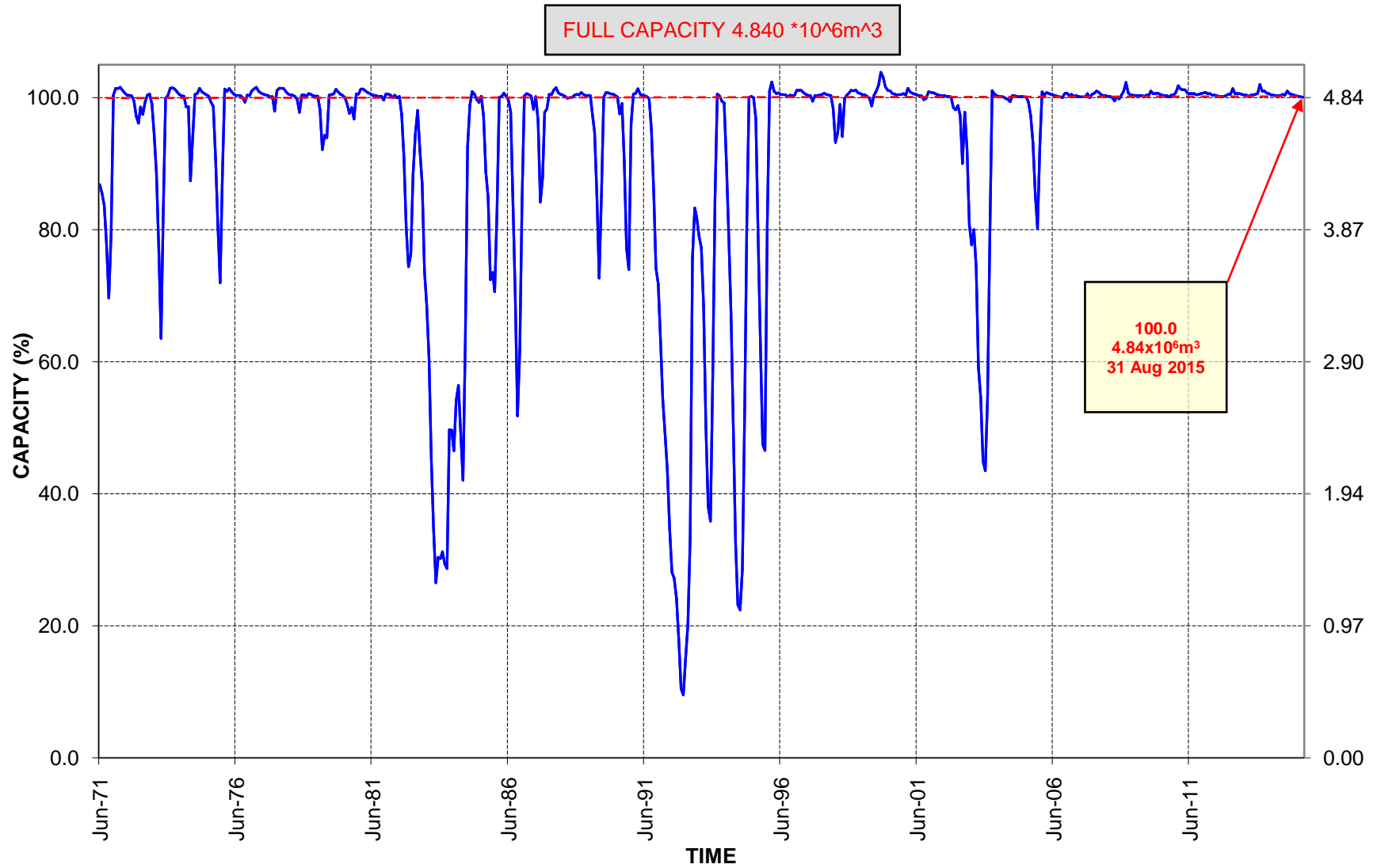


# GREAT LETABA RIVER AT EBENEZER DAM

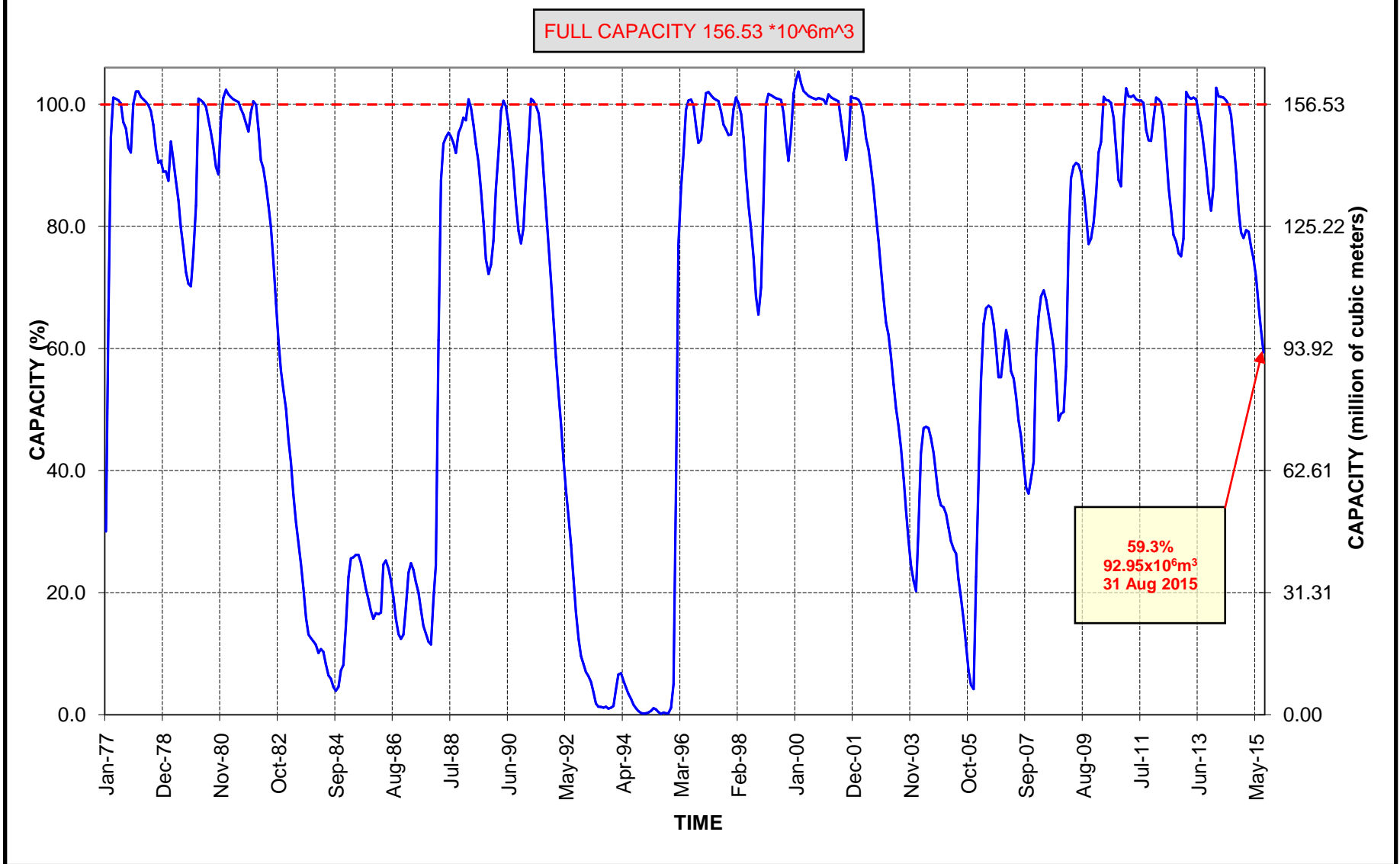
FULL CAPACITY  $69.139 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$



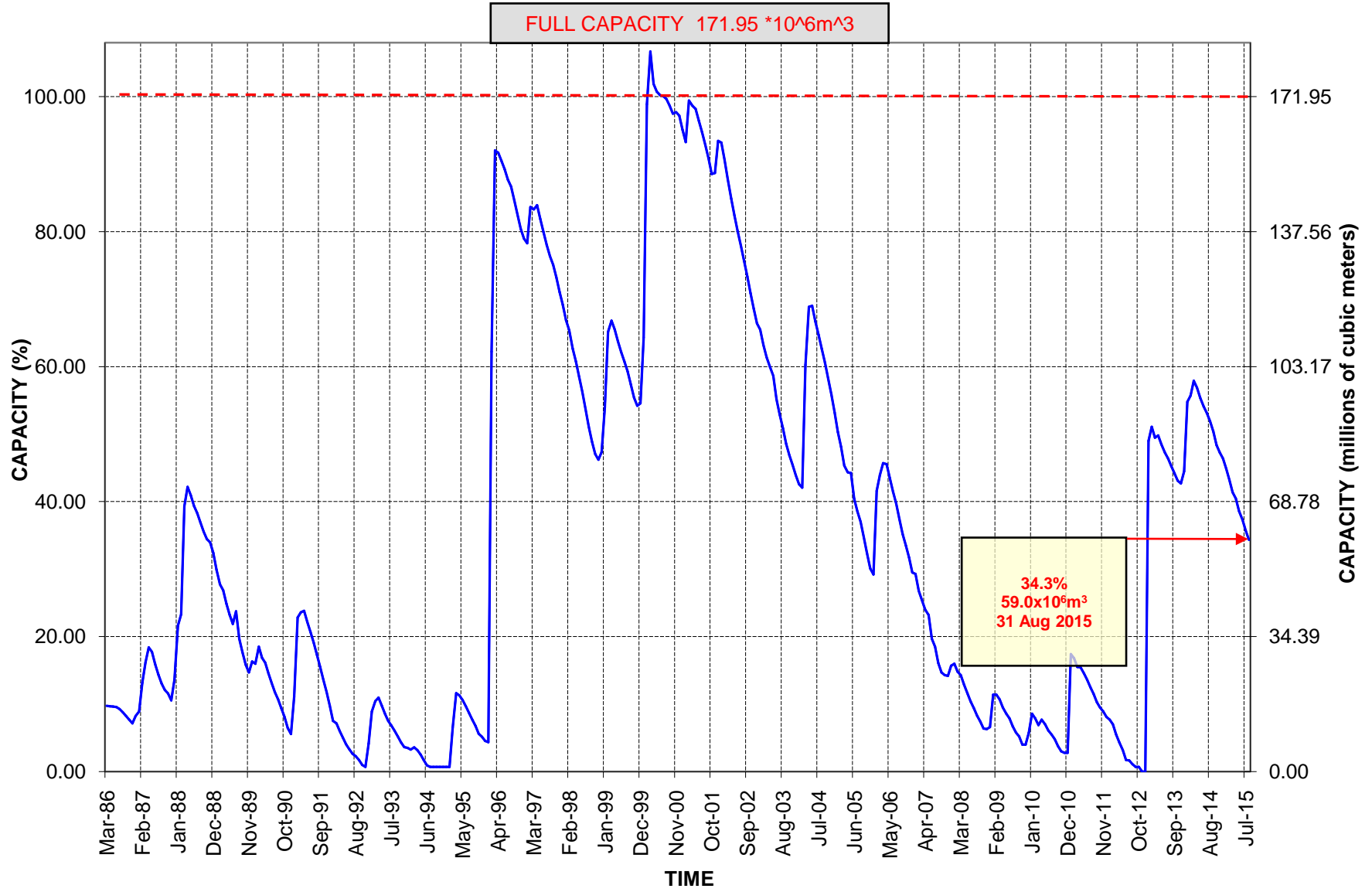
# POLITSI RIVER AT MAGOEBAKLOOF DAM



# GREAT LETABA RIVER AT TZANEEN DAM

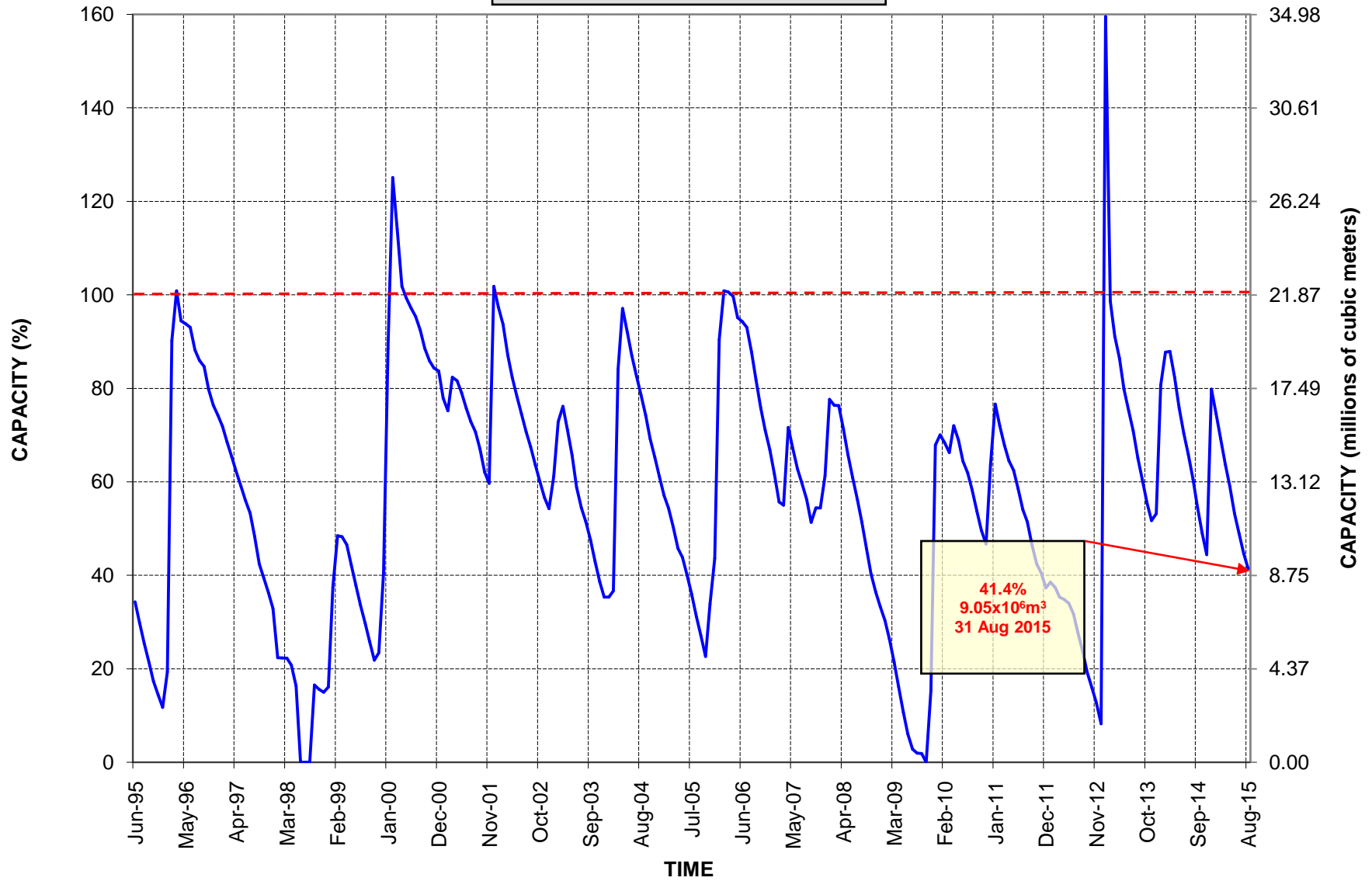


### MIDDLE LETABA RIVER AT MIDDLE LETABA DAM



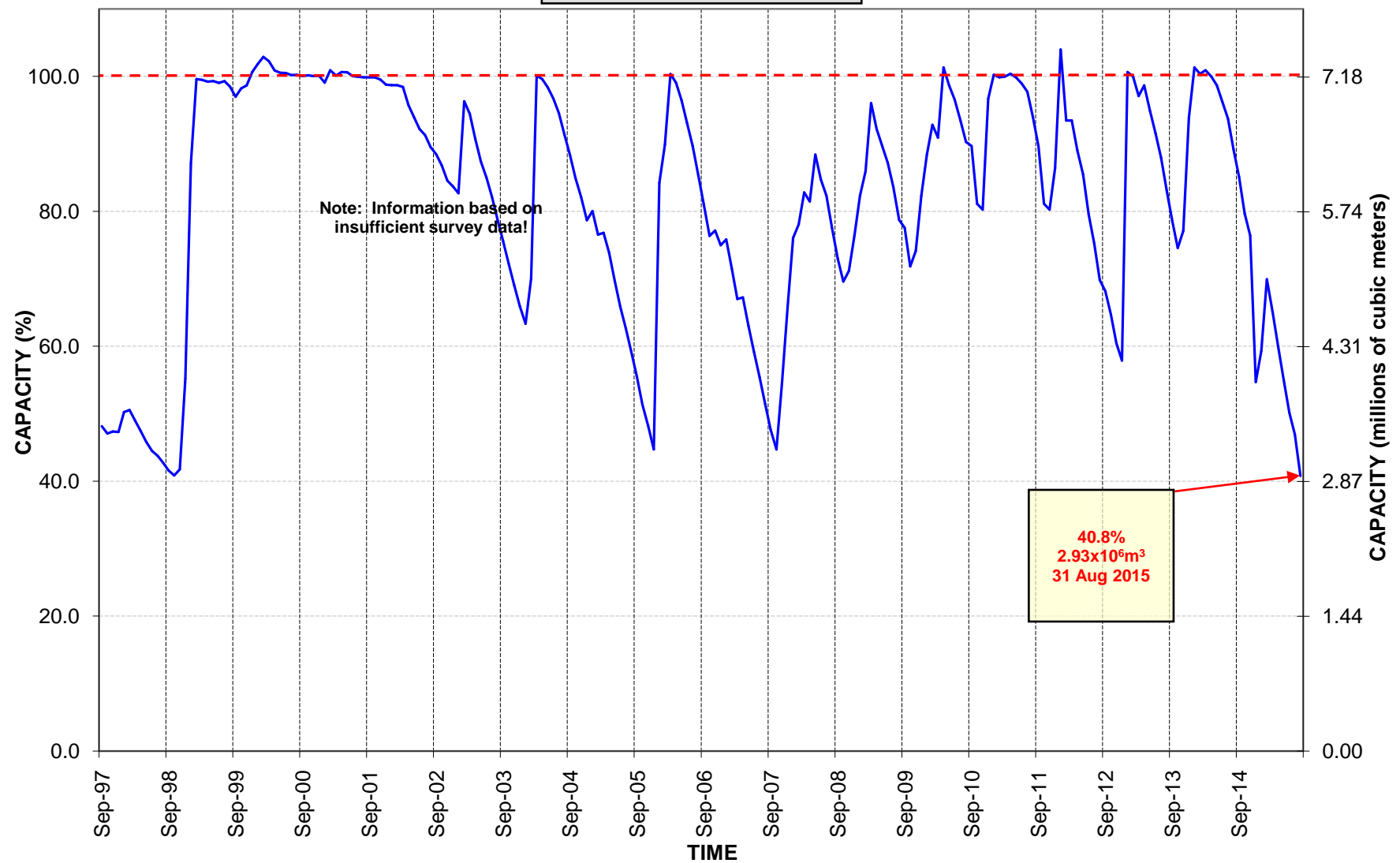
# NSAMI DAM AT NSAMA RIVER

FULL CAPACITY 21.87 \*10<sup>6</sup>m<sup>3</sup>

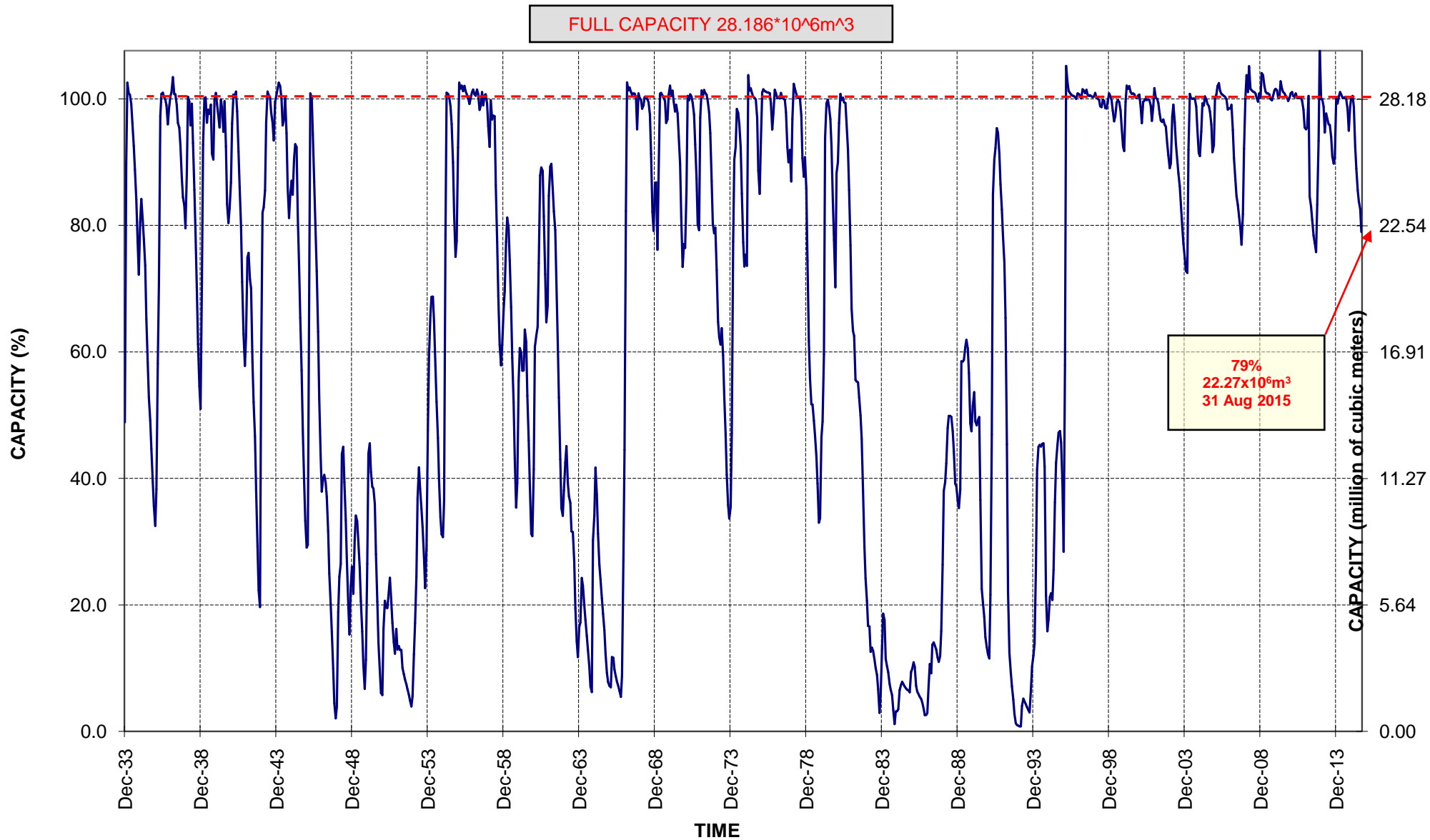


# MOLOTOTSI RIVER AT MODJADJI DAM

FULL CAPACITY  $7.18 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$

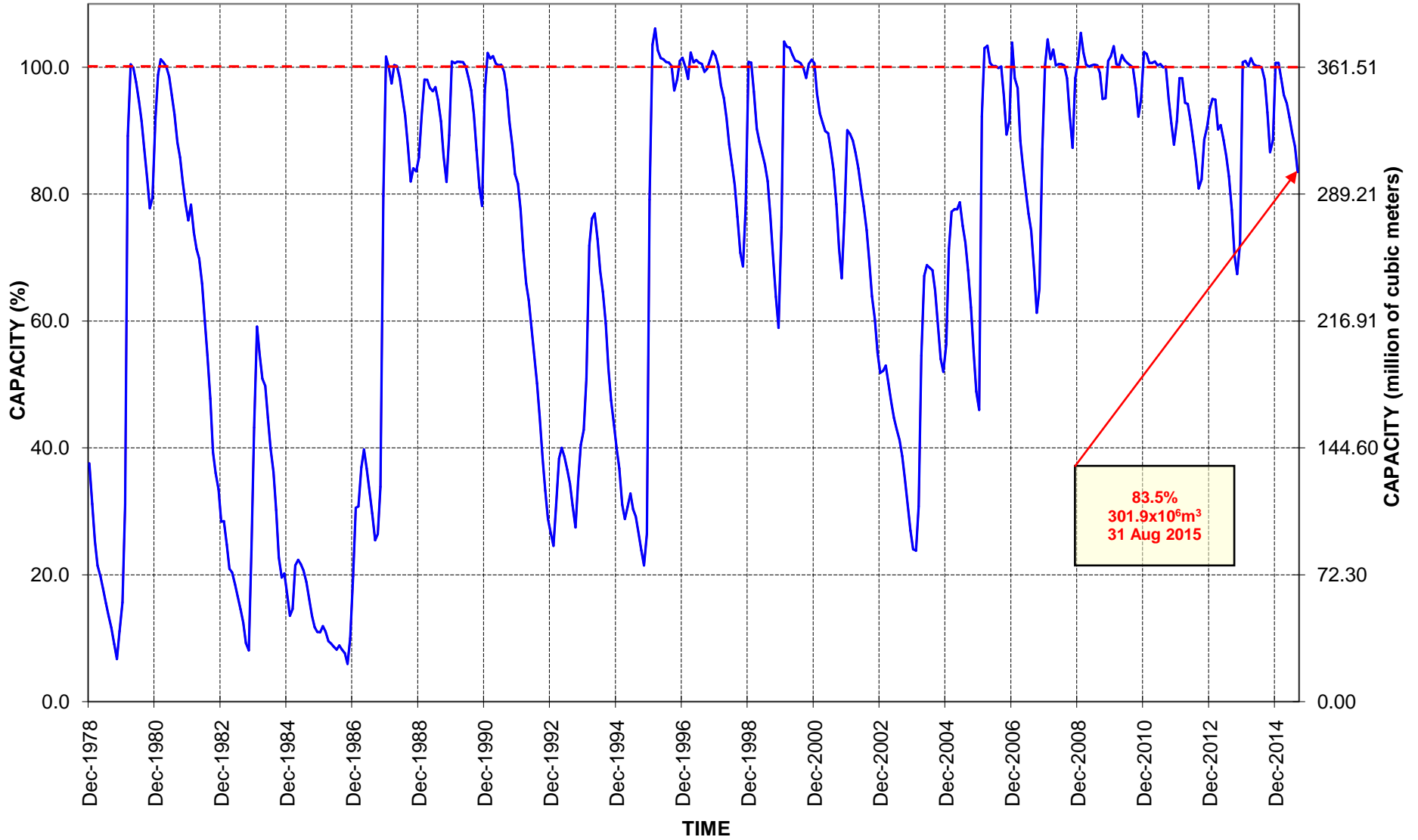


# ELANDS RIVER AT RUST DE WINTER DAM



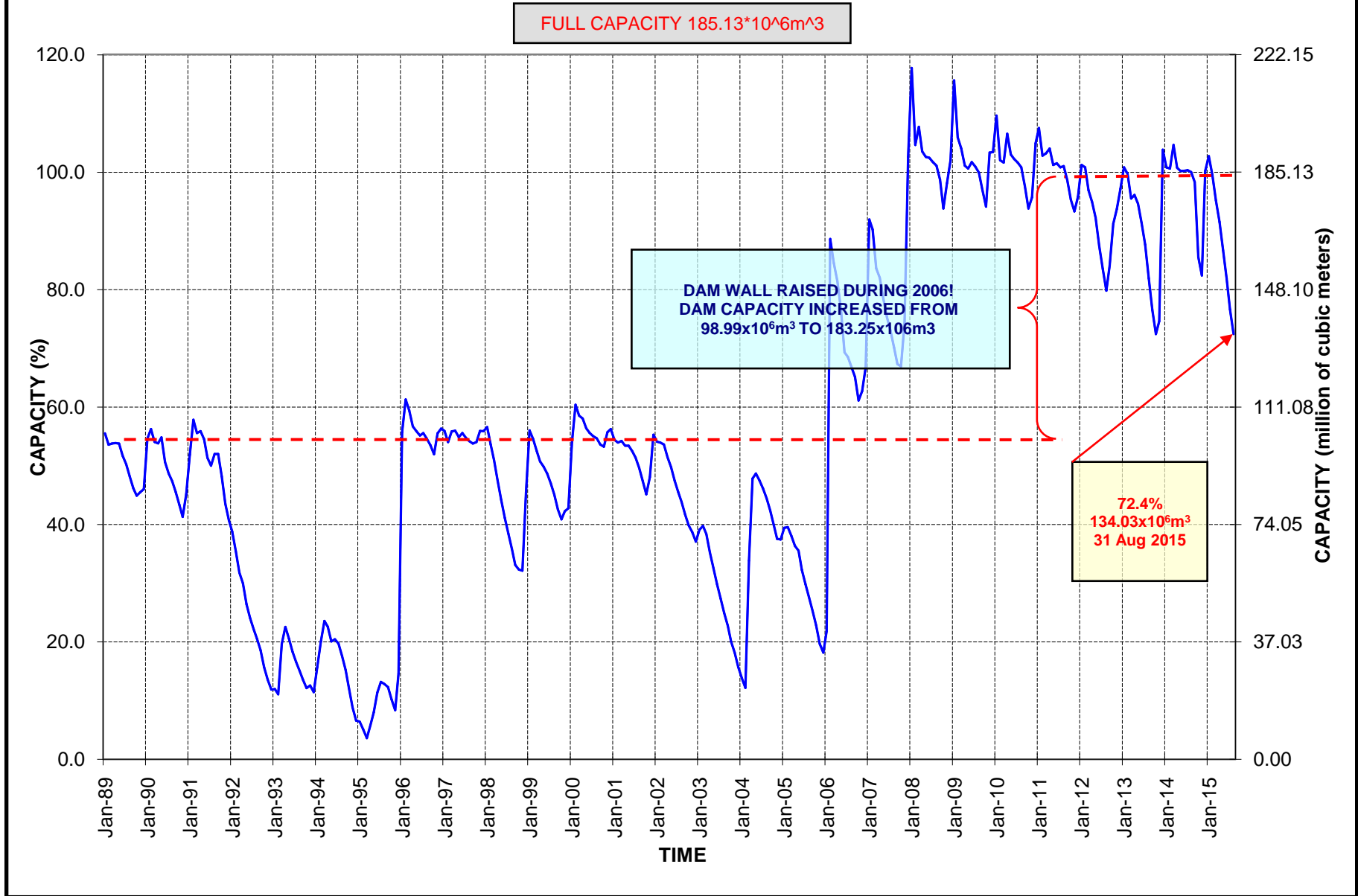
# OLIFANTS RIVER AT LOSKOP DAM

FULL CAPACITY



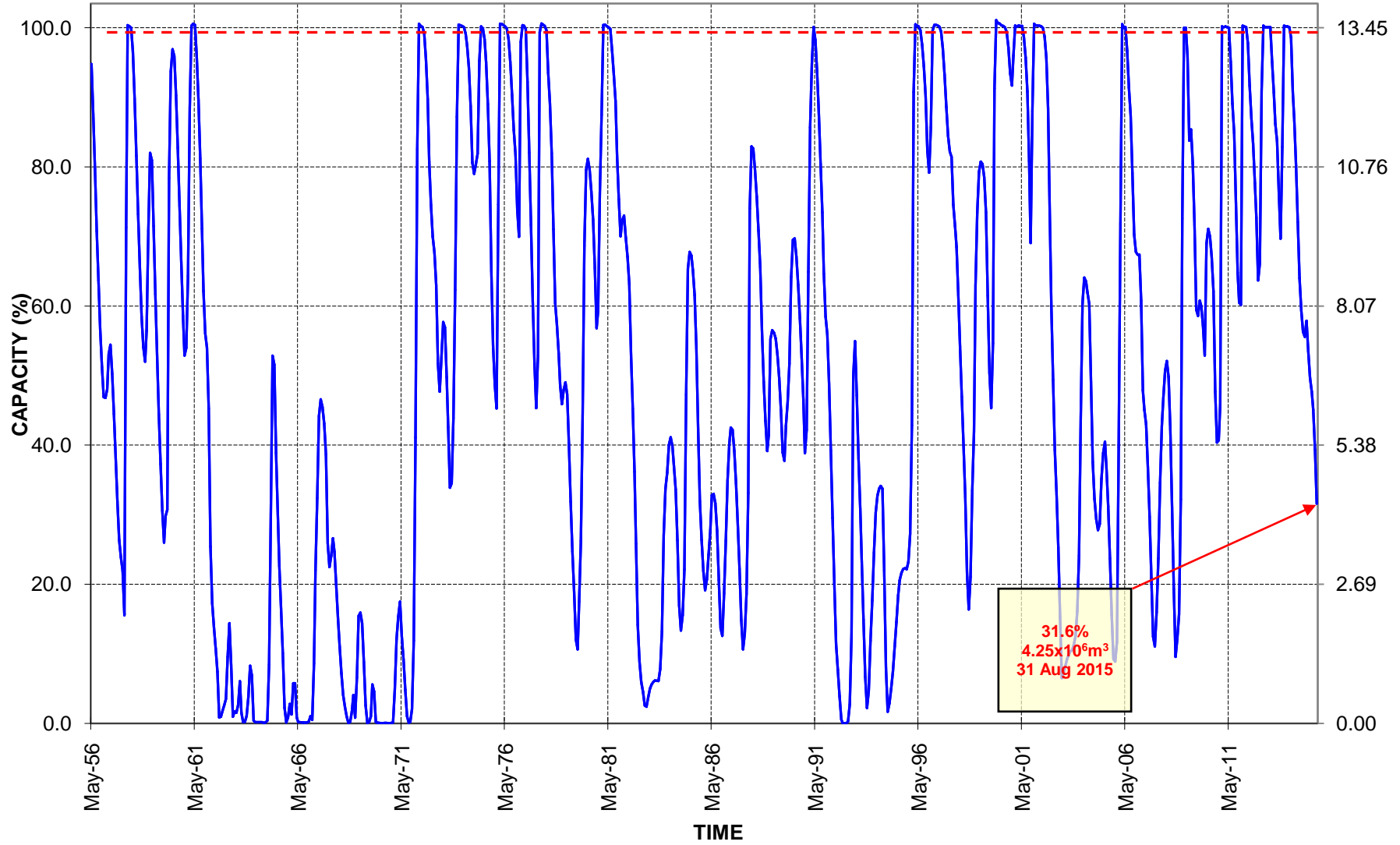
83.5%  
301.9x10<sup>6</sup>m<sup>3</sup>  
31 Aug 2015

# OLIFANTS RIVER AT FLAG BOSHIELO DAM

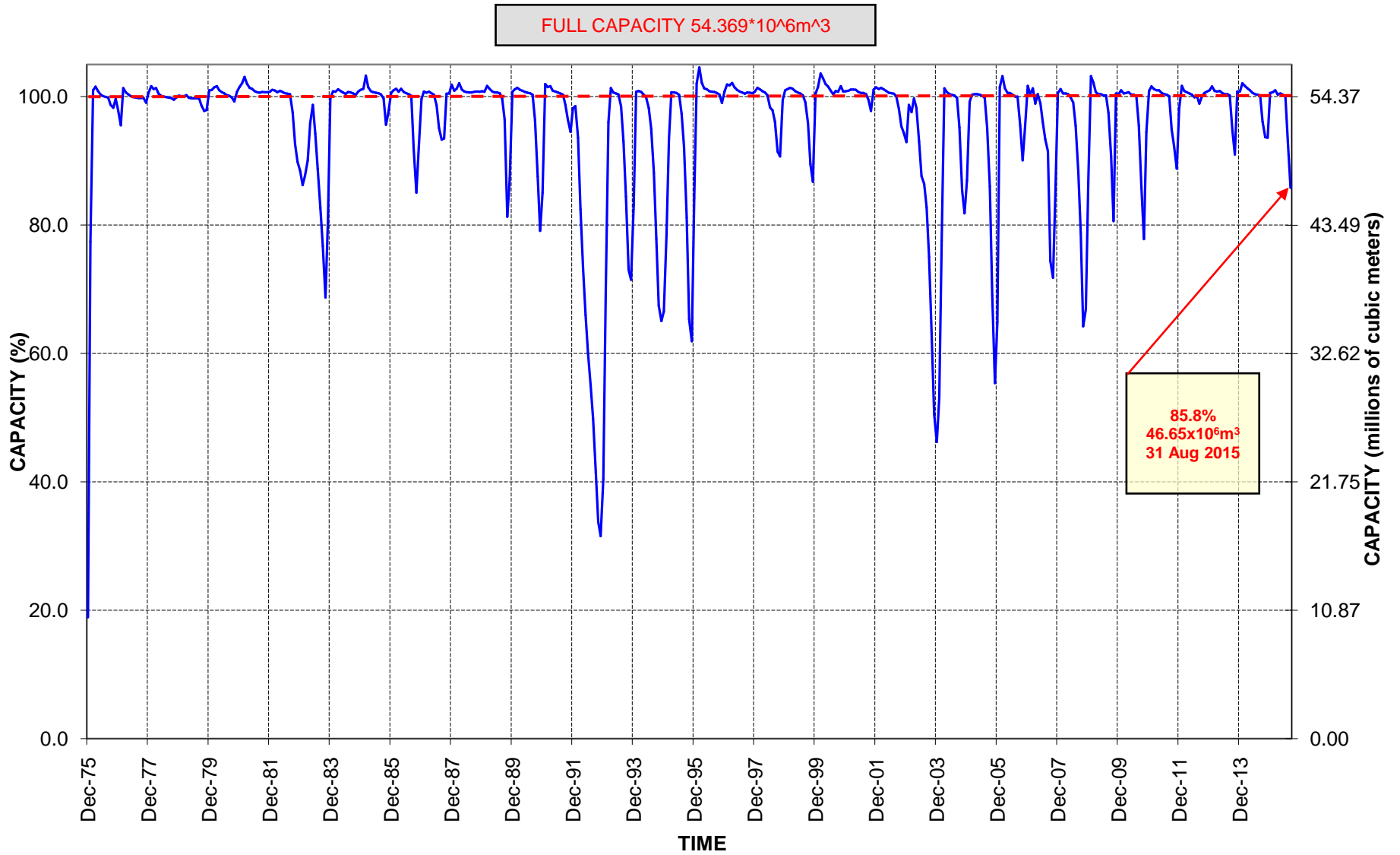


# OHRIGSTAD RIVER AT OHRIGSTAD DAM

FULL CAPACITY  $13.45 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$

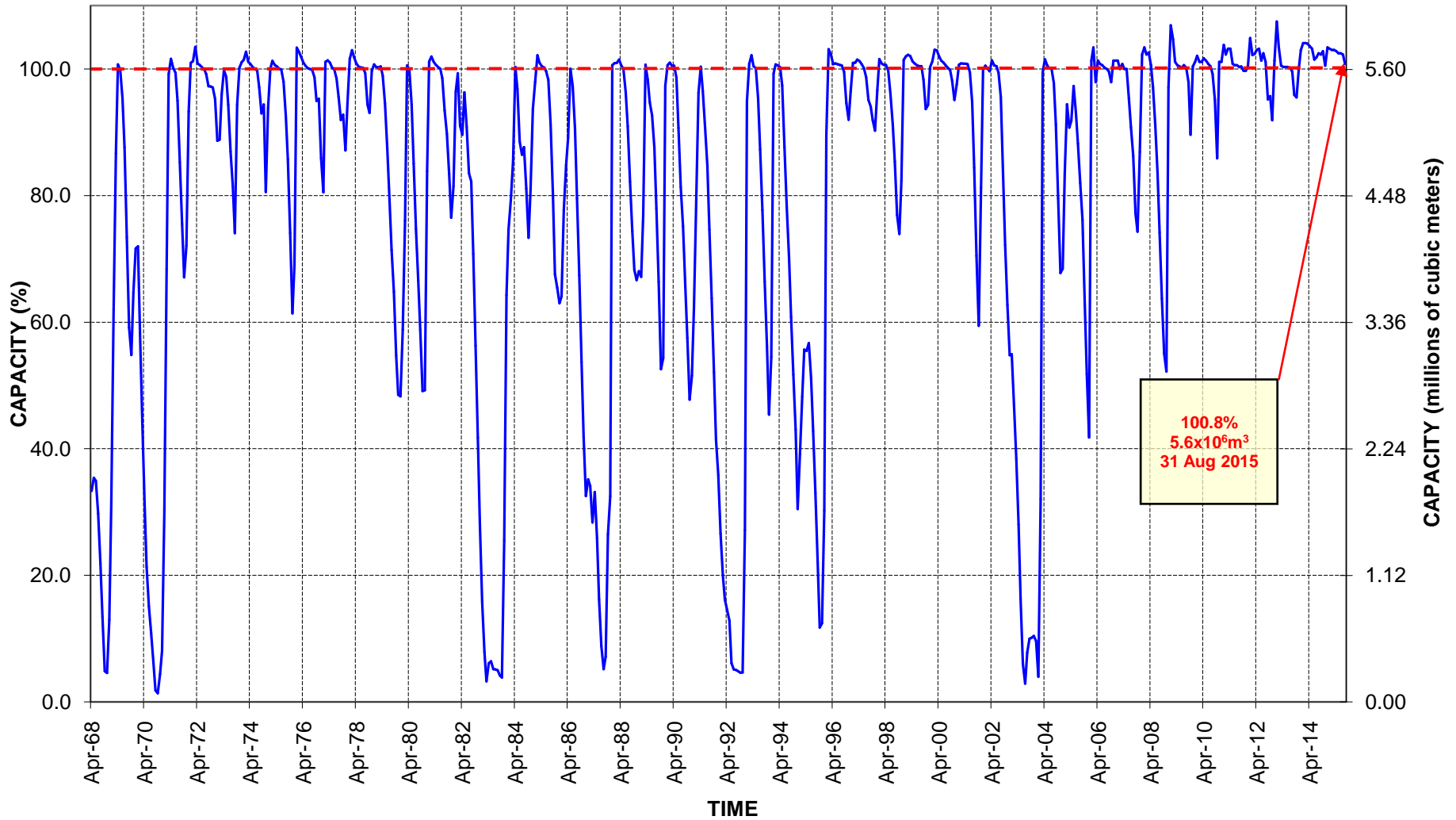


# BLYDE RIVER AT BLYDE RIVIERSPOORT DAM

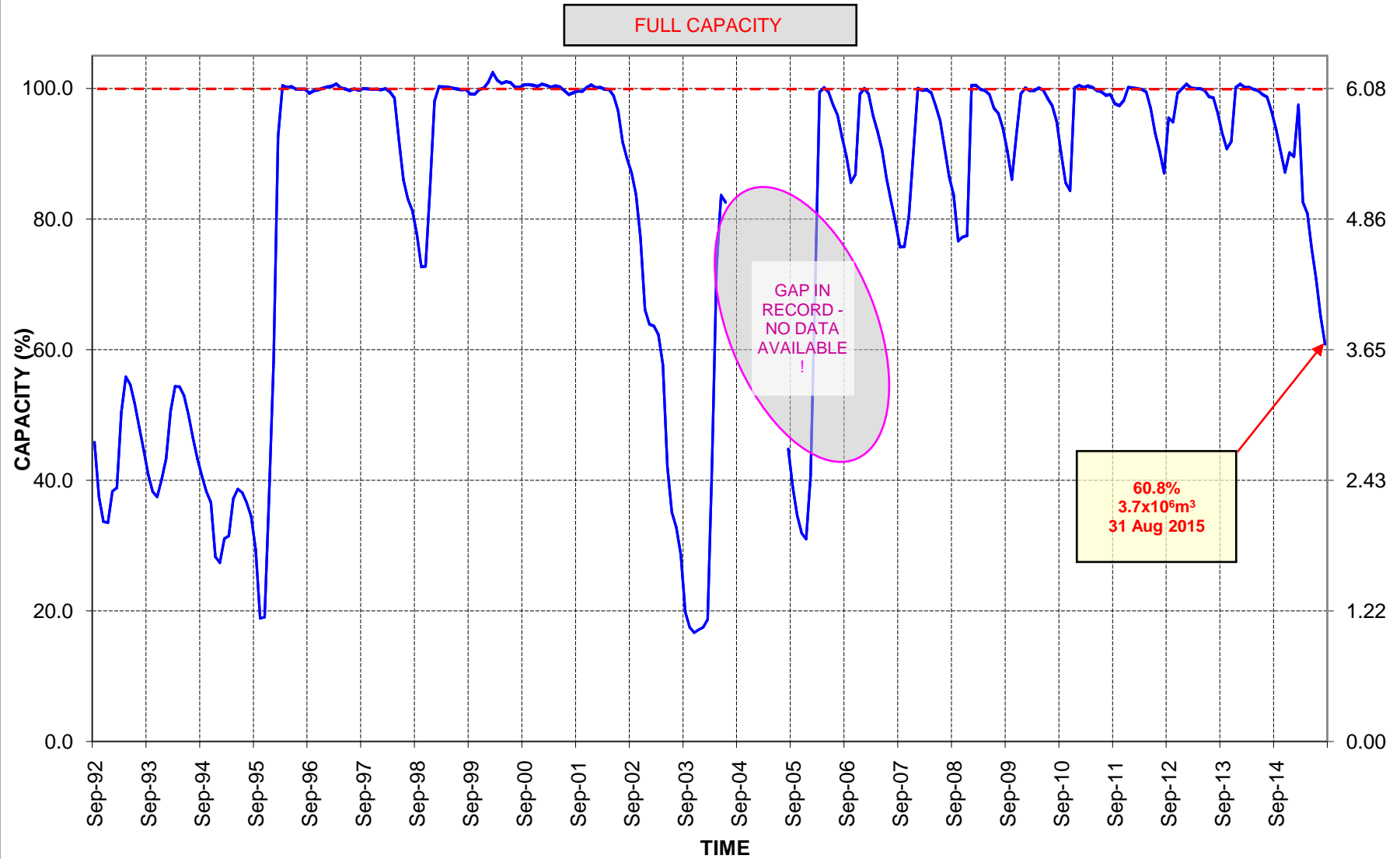


# KLASERIE RIVER AT KLASERIE DAM

FULL CAPACITY  $5.604 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$

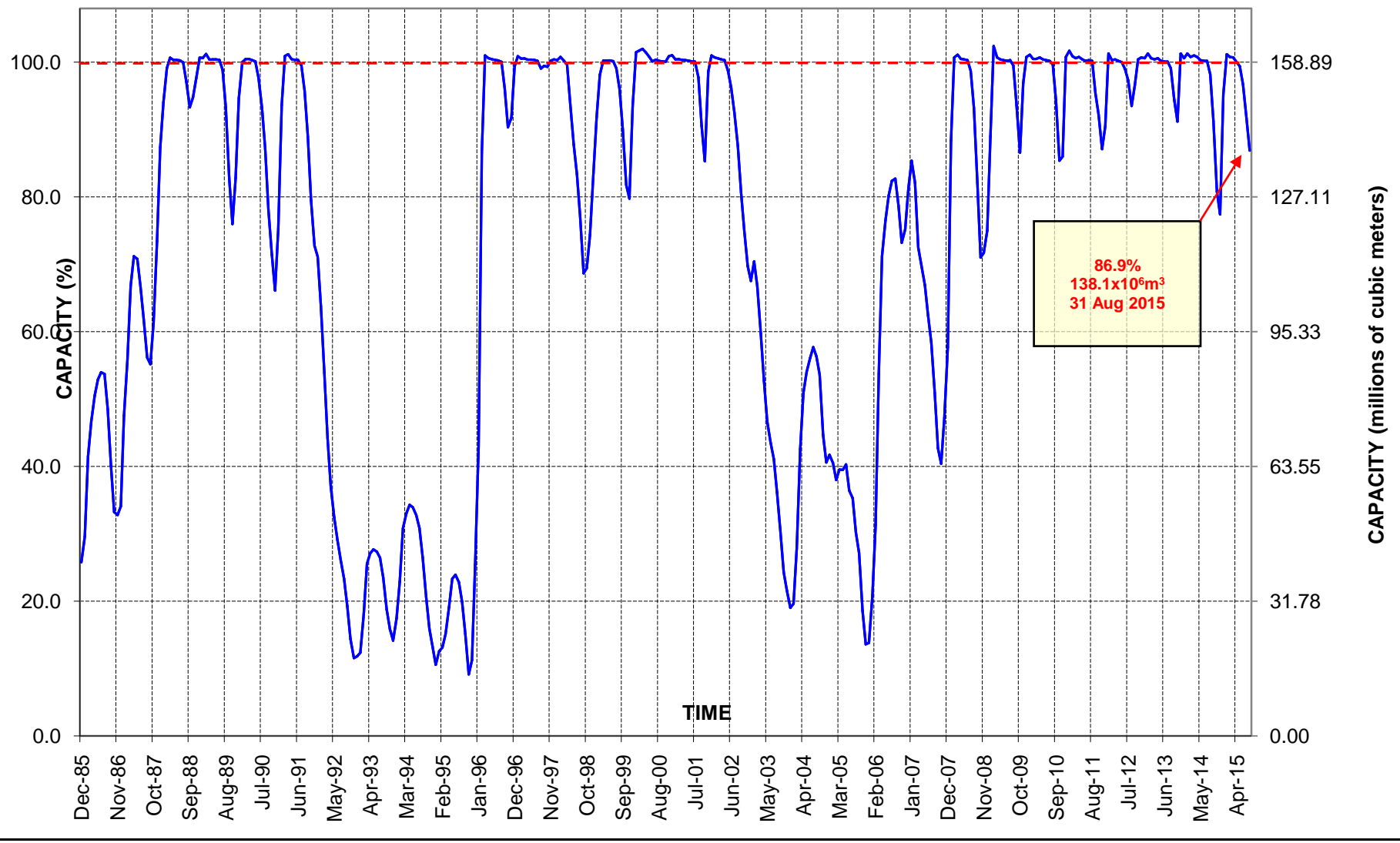


# NGWABITSI RIVER AT TOURS DAM



# CROCODILE RIVER AT KWENA DAM

FULL CAPACITY  $158.89 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$



### MERITI RIVER AT INYAKA DAM

FULL CAPACITY 123.66 \*10<sup>6</sup>m<sup>3</sup>

