



# water affairs

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Department:  
Water Affairs  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

## WATER RESOURCE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

STATUS ON MONITORING &  
SURFACE WATER LEVEL TRENDS  
APRIL 2012 to SEPTEMBER 2012

D VILJOEN  
DECEMBER 2012

**GH4327**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
2. MONITORING NETWORK	6
3. OVERVIEW	6
4. LIMPOPO WATER MANAGEMENT AREA	7
A4 DRAINAGE REGION	7
A5 DRAINAGE REGION	7
A6 DRAINAGE REGION	7
A7 DRAINAGE REGION	7
A8 DRAINAGE REGION	8
5. LUVUVHU / LETABA WATER MANAGEMENT AREA	8
A9 DRAINAGE REGION	8
B8 DRAINAGE REGION	8
B9 DRAINAGE REGION	9
6. OLIFANTS WATER MANAGEMENT AREA	9
B3 DRAINAGE REGION	9
B5 DRAINAGE REGION	9
B6 DRAINAGE REGION	10
B7 DRAINAGE REGION	10
7. NKOMATI WATER MANAGEMENT AREA	10
X2 DRAINAGE REGION	10
X3 DRAINAGE REGION	10

LIST OF MAPS AND GRAPHS	Page
NATIONAL RAINFALL MAP INDICATING THE PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL FOR THE 2011/2012 HYDROLOGICAL SEASON	11
GRAPH 1: PROVINCIAL RAINFALL FOR THE 2011/2012 HYDROLOGICAL SEASON	12
GRAPH 2: NATIONAL STORAGE PERCENTAGE	13
GRAPH 4: STORAGE PERCENTAGE FOR LIMPOPO WMA 1	14
GRAPH 5: STORAGE PERCENTAGE FOR LUVUVHU / LETABA WMA 2	15
WMA STORAGE SUMMARY	16
SEASONAL FORECAST MAPS (SAWS)	17
GRAPH 7: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR MOKOLO DAM	18
GRAPH 8: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR DOORNDRAAI DAM	19
GRAPH 9: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR GLEN ALPINE DAM	20
GRAPH 10: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR NZHELELE DAM	21
GRAPH 11: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR LUPHEPHE DAM	22
GRAPH 12: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR NWANEDZI DAM	23
GRAPH 13: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR MUTSHEDZI DAM	24
GRAPH 14: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR ALBASINI DAM	25
GRAPH 15: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR VONDO DAM	26
GRAPH 16: PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR NANDONI DAM	27

GRAPH 17:	PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR EBENEZER DAM	28
GRAPH 18:	PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR MAGOEBASKLOOF DAM	29
GRAPH 19:	PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR TZANEEN DAM	30
GRAPH 20:	PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR MIDDLE-LETABA DAM	31
GRAPH 21:	PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR NSAMI DAM	32
GRAPH 22:	PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR MODJADJI DAM	33
GRAPH 23:	PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR RUST DE WINTER DAM	34
GRAPH 24:	PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR LOSKOP DAM	35
GRAPH 25:	PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR FLAG BOSHIELO DAM	36
GRAPH 26:	PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR OHRIGSTAD DAM	37
GRAPH 27:	PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR BLYDE RIVIERSPOORT DAM	38
GRAPH 28:	PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR KLASERIE DAM	39
GRAPH 29:	PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR TOURS DAM	40
GRAPH 30:	PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR KWENA DAM	41
GRAPH 31:	PERCENTAGE CAPACITY AND CAPACITY IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS FOR INYAKA DAM	42
	MAP OF LIMPOPO SURFACE MONITORING GAUGING STATIONS	43

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The majority of dams used in this report have less water than during the corresponding period last year. In the Luvuvhu / Letaba Water Management Area **the Middle Letaba Dam is at a critical stage of 0.7%** and the Nsami and Albasini Dams with low storage levels of 19% and 34.5% respectively!

In the Limpopo WMA all dams have less water than the previous year: The average storage volume for the Limpopo WMA is 224.1 million cubic meters (79.9%) and is 38.9 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year (93.8%).

The average storage volume for the Luvuvhu / Letaba WMA is 383.7 million cubic meters (58%) and is 80.8 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year (70.4%).

In the Sekhukune area the Flag Boshielo Dam is at a storage level of 84.1% ( $155.7 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$ ) and 14% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 25.9 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year.

The average storage volume for the Olifants WMA is 838.6 million cubic meters (78.1%) and is 187 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year (95.5%). 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 913.6 million cubic meters (87%) and is 98.1 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year (96.4%).

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.

Gauge plates have been installed at some of the smaller dams, but there are no observers to relay gauge plate readings to the Tzaneen Office. Hout River Dam has been equipped with near real-time data acquisitioning equipment.

**The information presented in this report is based on the status of all the major dams in the province up to the end of September 2012.**

## 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 Inkomati Water Management Areas, information regarding their status is also attached.

## 3. OVERVIEW

No river flow gauging stations were used in this report as their importance will only play a role when inflow stream requirements have to be met or during big flood events.

**Take note that that the following dams have been included under the provincial boundary of the Limpopo Province: Modjadji, Nandoni, Flag Boshielo, Klaserie, Rust De Winter, Tonteldoos, Tours, Vlugkraal and Warmbad. This results in the full supply storage capacity increasing from 767.6 million cubic meters to 1166.6 million cubic meters.**

To give an indication of what the percentage of normal rainfall was for the period October 2011 up to August 2012, see attached map (page 11). For information purposes a graph depicting provincial rainfall for the current hydrological year is attached (page 12). Rainfall forecasts for November 2012 up to January 2013 are also attached see page 17. This information was obtained from the South African Weather Service.

The National dam storage graph (page 13) has been attached to the report for additional information. The Limpopo Province dam storage graph (page 14) as well as the graphs of the two WMAs (page 15-16), indicates the current situation clearly.

This information was obtained from Mr Elias Nel, National Office.

For information purposes a table indicating the comparison of water storage percentage for the different WMA's is attached on page 17.

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.

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

The Mokolo Dam (A4R001) was used as no other dam exists in the A4 hydrological monitoring network. The dam storage is at a storage level of 95.7% ( $139.15 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$ ) and 2.5% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 3.6 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year. See attached graph!

##### 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)

The Doorndraai Dam (A6R001) and Glen Alpine Dam (A6R002) were used as no other dams exist in the A6 hydrological monitoring network. The Doorndraai Dam is at a storage level of 90.5% ( $39.6 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$ ) and 6.6% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 2.88 million cubic meters more than the corresponding period last year. See attached graph!

Glen Alpine Dam is at a storage level of 52.6% ( $9.9 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$ ) and 16.9% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 3.19 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year. See attached graph!

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!

**Take note that the full supply capacity ( $18.889 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$ ) as supplied in the National Weekly Dam Status report, was used for calculation purposes!**

##### 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!

The Tzaneen Area Office in conjunction with the Hydrometry office is currently busy with the installation of gauge plates at dams in both of the Water Management Areas. Hout River Dam has been equipped with gauge plates, but a futile exercise at Mashashane Dam just iterated the point that gauge plates should be installed once water levels are below lowest outlet levels! Data capturing and real-time equipment has been installed at Hout River Dam.

Seshego and Rietfontein Dams will be investigated, but due to high water levels and the lack of infrastructure, the installation of gauge plates remains a huge challenge. According to preliminary investigations it seems obvious that the installation of gauge plates will only be feasible when water levels at these dams are on or below lowest outlet levels!

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

The Nzhelele Dam (A8R001), Luphephe (A8R002), Nwanedzi (A8R003) and Mutshedzi (A8R004) Dams were used as indicators! The Nzhelele Dam is at a storage level of 51.9% ( $26.6 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$ ) and 38.2% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 19.57 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year. See attached graph!

Luphephe and Nwanedzi Dams are at storage levels of 36.5% and 46.7% respectively. Their combined storage is at  $7.5 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$ . The combined storage for the corresponding period the previous year was  $15.9 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$ . (83.1% of storage volume) See attached graphs!

Mutshedzi Dam, is at a storage level of 64.1% ( $1.31 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$ ) and 26% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 0.53 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year. See attached graph!

### **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)**

The Albasini Dam (A9R001), Vondo Dam (A9R002) and Nandoni (A9R004) Dams were used as monitoring points in this report.

Albasini Dam is at a storage level of 34.5% ( $9.72 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$ ) and 12.8% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 3.6 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year. See attached graph!

Vondo Dam is at a storage level of 75.6% ( $23.0 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$ ) and 14.8% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 4.5 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year. See attached graph!

Nandoni Dam is at a storage level of 87.48% ( $145.11 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$ ) and 12.7% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 21.2 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year. See attached graph!

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

The Ebenezer Dam (B8R001), Magoebaskloof Dam (B8R003), Tzaneen Dam (B8R005), Middle-Letaba Dam (B8R007), Nsami Dam (B8R009) and Modjadji Dam (B8R011) were used as monitoring points in this report. The Dap Naudé Dam (B8R006) and Hans Merensky Dam (B8R002) are also being monitored, but were not included in this report!

Thapane Dam has been investigated but due to high water levels and the lack of infrastructure, the installation of gauge plates remains a huge challenge. According to preliminary investigations it seems obvious that the installation of gauge plates will only be feasible when the water level at this dam is on or below lowest outlet level!

The Ebenezer Dam is at a storage level of 96.1% ( $66.43 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$ ) and 2.7% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 1.88 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year. See attached graph!

Magoebaskloof Dam is at a storage level of 100.2% ( $4.85 \times 10^6\text{m}^3$ ) and 0.4% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 0.021 million cubic meters more than the corresponding period last year. See attached graph! **Take note that the full supply capacity ( $4.84 \times 10^6\text{m}^3$ ) as supplied in the National Weekly Dam Status report, was used for calculation purposes!**

Tzaneen Dam is at a storage level of 77.5% ( $121.37 \times 10^6\text{m}^3$ ) and 19.1% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 29.8 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year. See attached graph! **Take note that the full supply capacity ( $156.53 \times 10^6\text{m}^3$ ) as supplied in the National Weekly Dam Status report, was used for calculation purposes!**

**Middle-Letaba Dam is at a critical low storage level of 0.7% ( $1.19 \times 10^6\text{m}^3$ ) and 9.7% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 16.7 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year. See attached graph!**

The Nsami Dam is at a low storage level of 19.2% ( $4.19 \times 10^6\text{m}^3$ ) and 27.4% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 6.0 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year.

The Modjadji Dam is at a storage level of 68.2% ( $4.9 \times 10^6\text{m}^3$ ) and 21.5% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 1.54 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year.

### **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 the status of Rust de Winter Dam (B3R001) and Loskop Dam (B3R002) has been included in this report.

Rust de Winter Dam is at a storage level of 83.3% ( $23.49 \times 10^6\text{m}^3$ ) and 15.7% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 4.42 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year. See attached graph!

Loskop Dam is at a storage level of 82.3% ( $297.39 \times 10^6\text{m}^3$ ) and 12% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 47.13 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year. See attached graph!

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

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

Flag Boshielo Dam is at a storage level of 84.1% ( $155.72 \times 10^6\text{m}^3$ ) and 14% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 25.9 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year. See attached graph!

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

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

Ohrigstad Dam is at a storage level of 72% ( $9.68 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$ ) and 3.6% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 0.48 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year. See attached graph!

**Take note that the full supply capacity ( $13.448 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$ ) as supplied in the National Weekly Dam Status report, was used for calculation purposes!**

Blyde Dam is at a storage level of 100.1% ( $54.42 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$ ) and 4.8% higher than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 2.6 million cubic meters more than the corresponding period last year. See attached graph!

**Take note that the full supply capacity ( $54.369 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$ ) as supplied in the National Weekly Dam Status report, was used for calculation purposes!**

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

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

Klaserie Dam is at a storage level of 95.2% ( $5.34 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$ ) and 4.9% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 0.27 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year. See attached graph!

Tours Dam is at a storage level of 95.4% ( $5.8 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$ ) and 2.1% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 0.13 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year. See attached graph!

**Take note that the full supply capacities ( $5.604 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$  and  $6.084 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$ ) Klaserie and Tours Dams respectively, as supplied in the National Weekly Dam Status report, were used for calculation purposes!**

## 7. NKOMATI WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

### 7.1 X2 Drainage Area (Crocodile River)

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

Kwena Dam is at a storage level of 96.6% ( $153.46 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$ ) and 1.5% higher than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 2.4 million cubic meters more than the corresponding period last year. See attached graph!

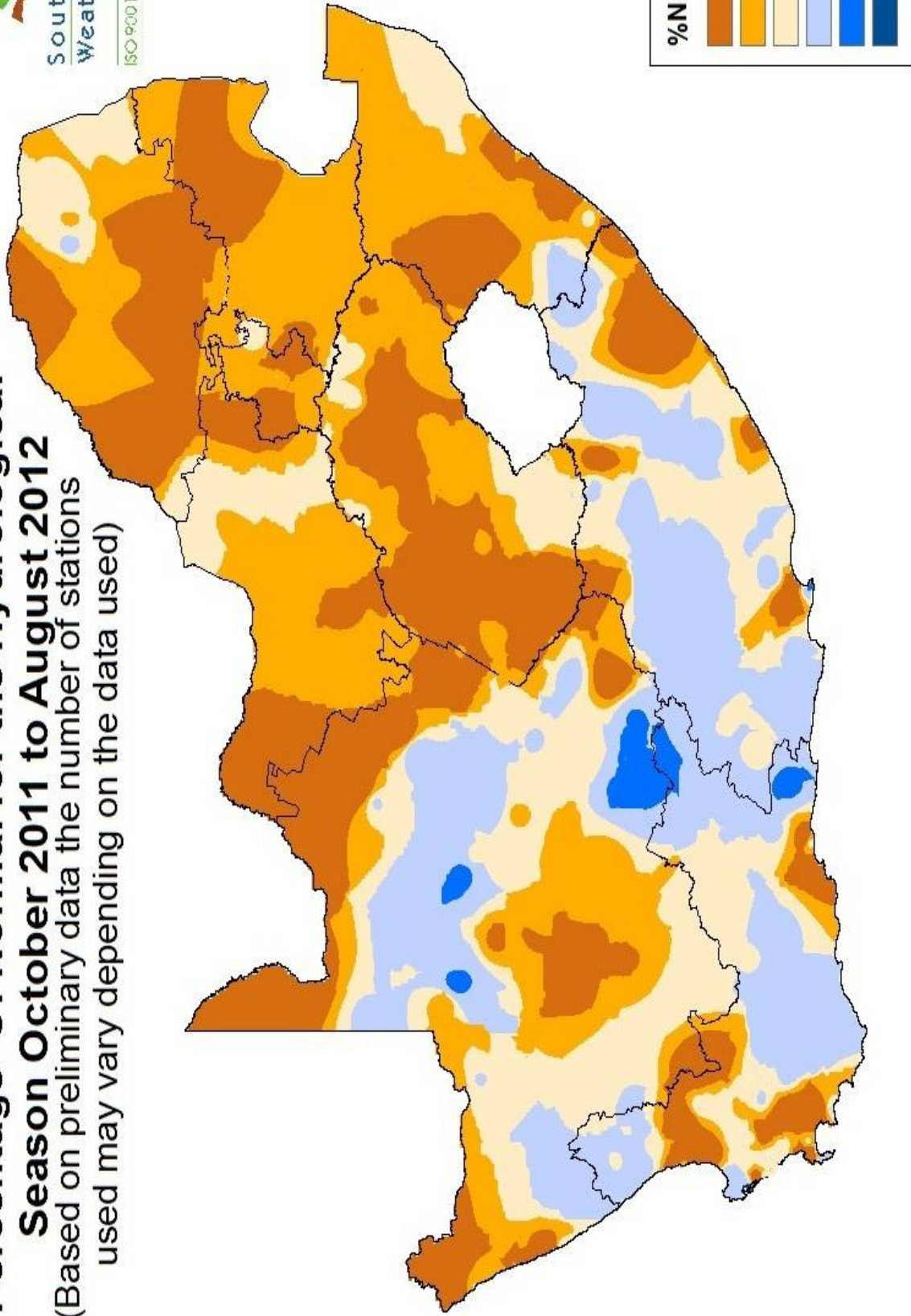
### 7.2 X3 Drainage Area (Mariti River)

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

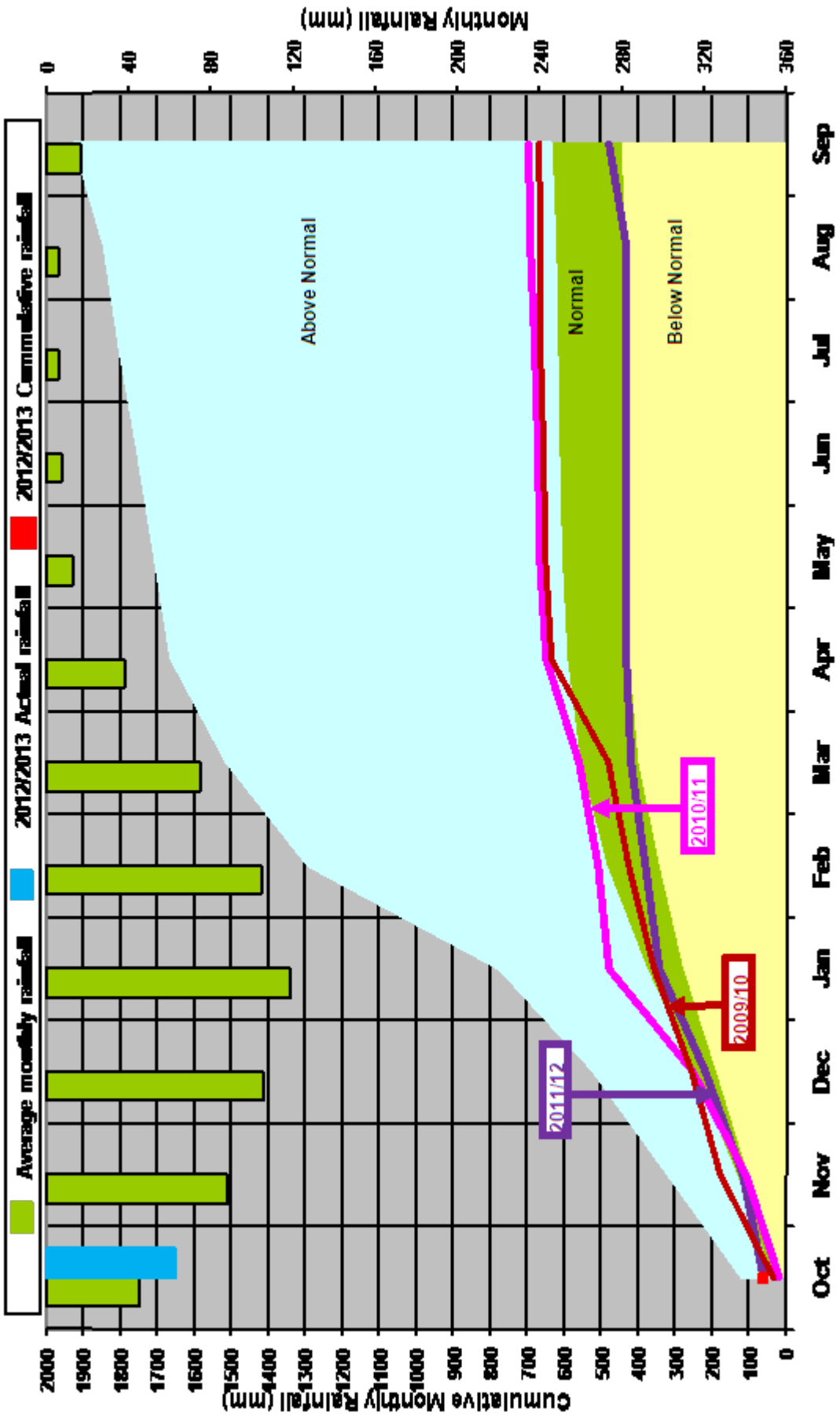
Inyaka Dam is at a storage level of 98.6% ( $121.88 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$ ) and 1.3% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 1.66 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year. See attached graph!

# Percentage Of Normal for the Hydrological Season October 2011 to August 2012

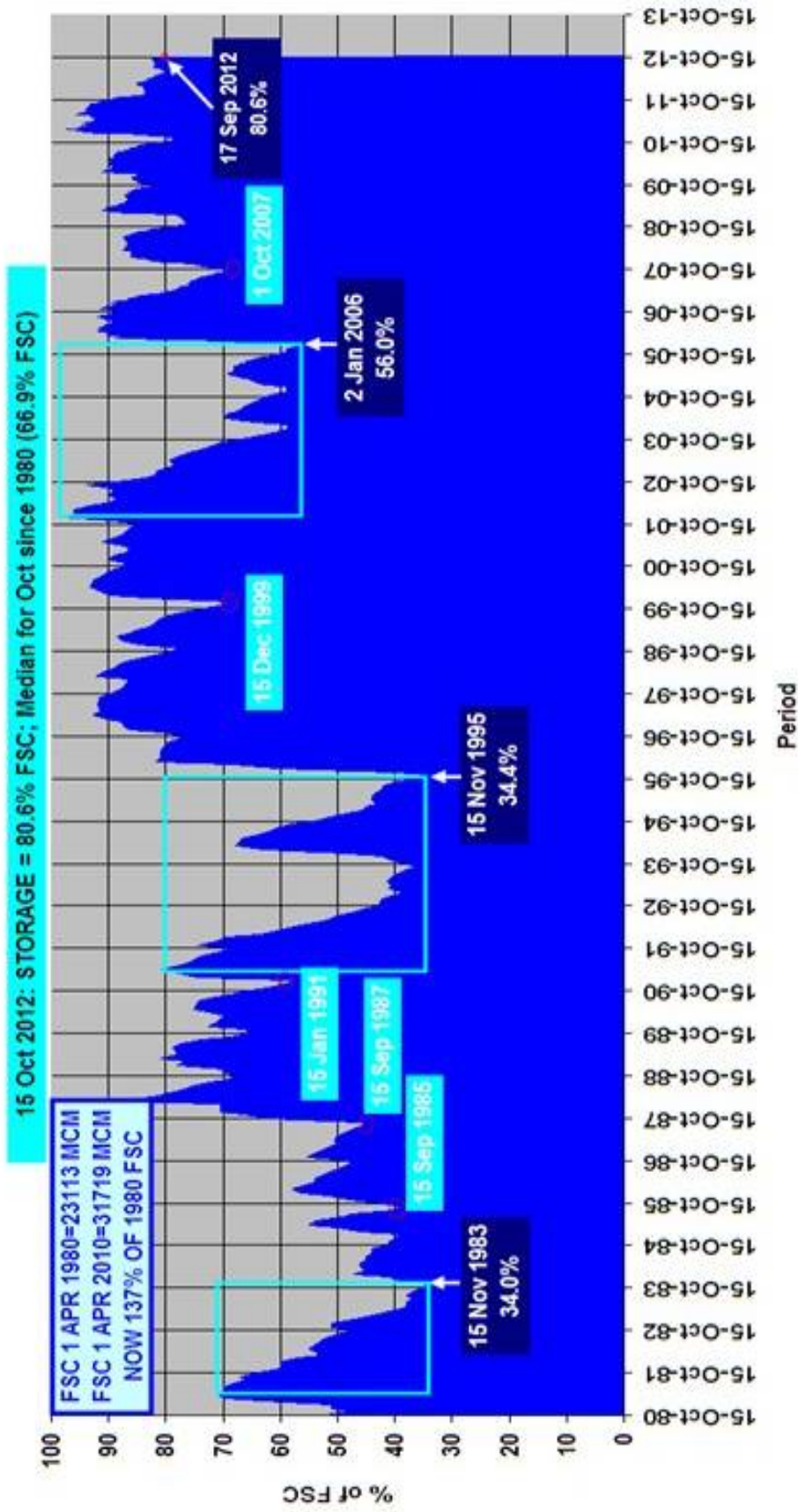
(Based on preliminary data the number of stations  
used may vary depending on the data used)



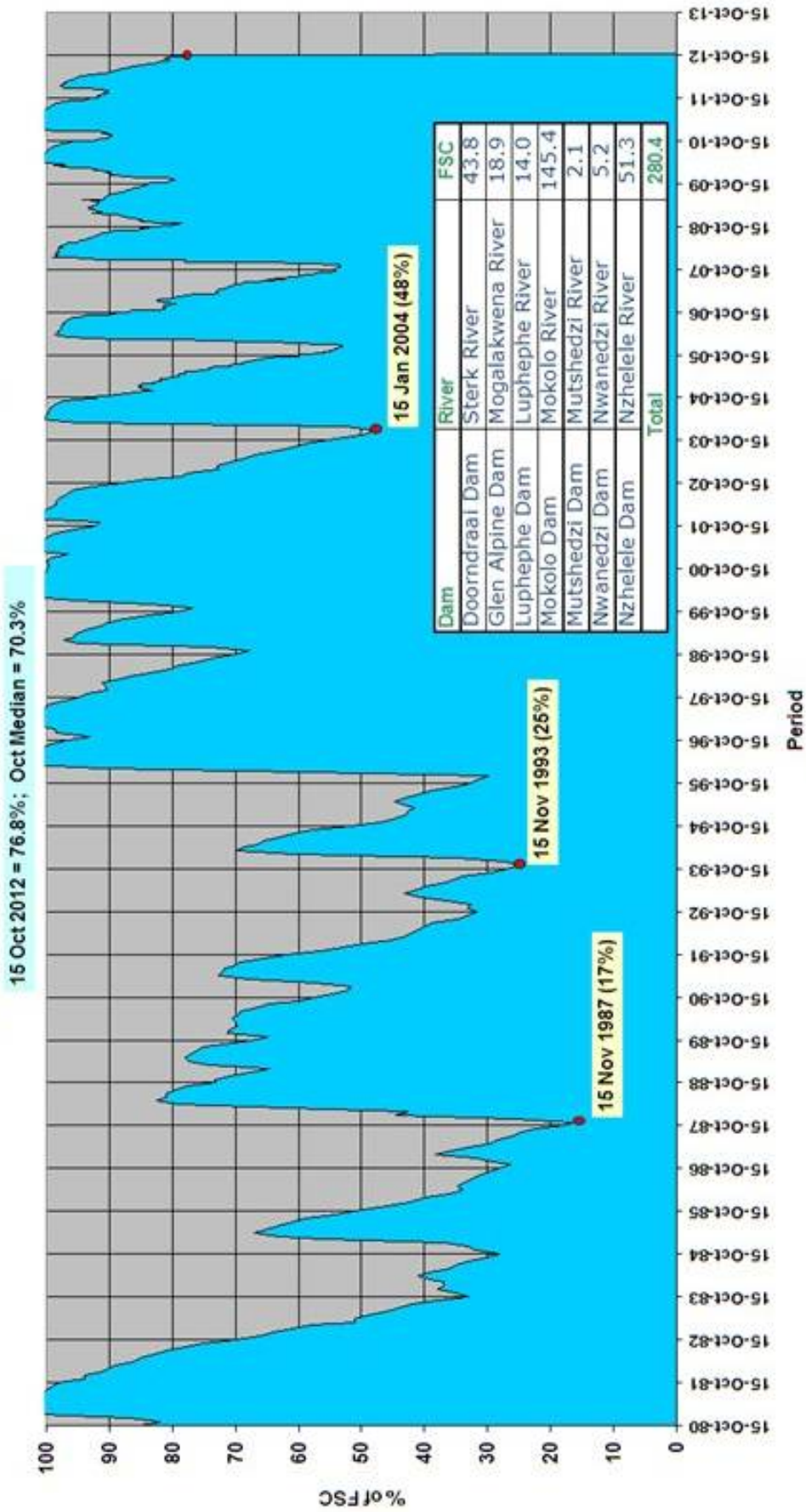
# LIMPOPO



**National Dams: Water Storage: The Storage for 15 Oct 2012 is the 8th highest on record (33 years) for Oct since Oct 1980 to 15 Oct 2012 (Weekly values since 4/10/04)**

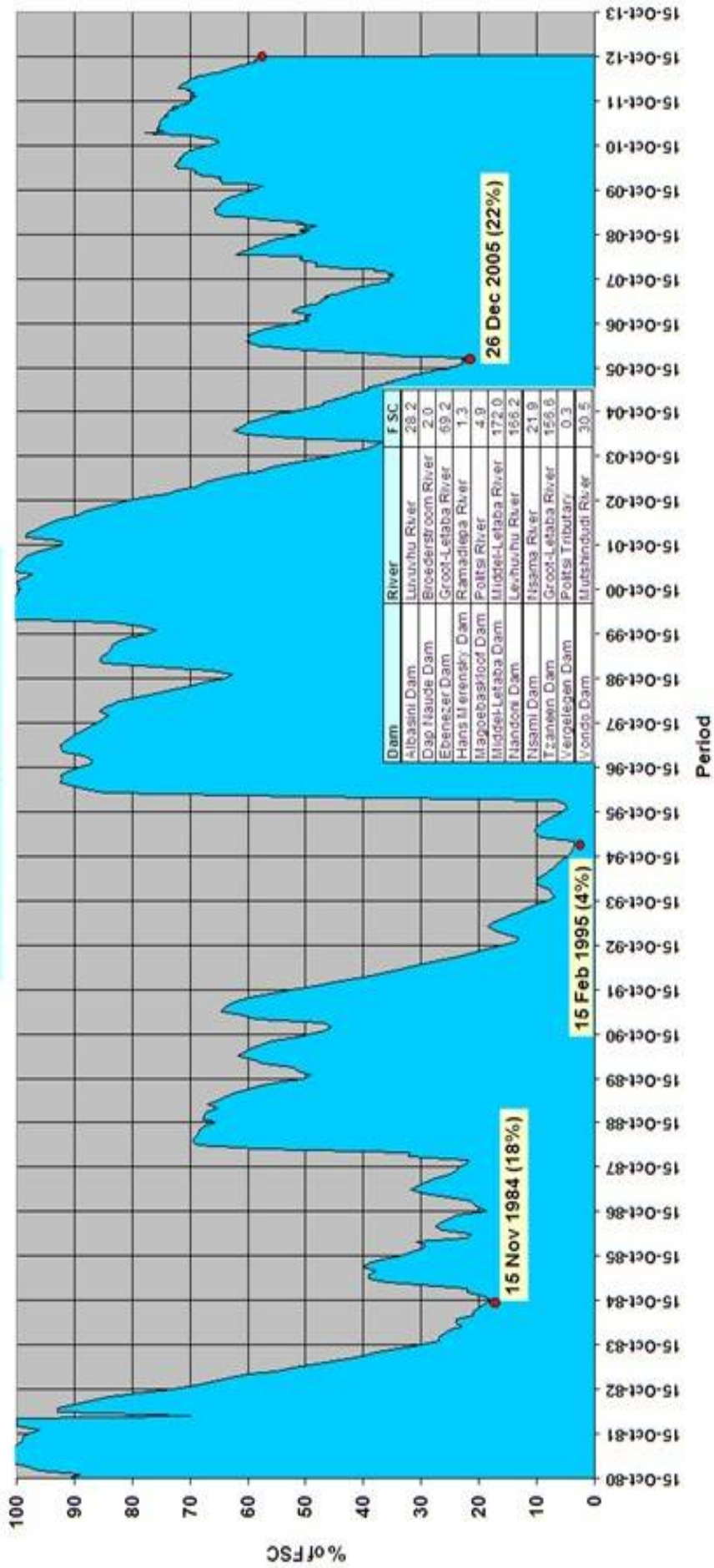


WMA 1: Limpopo (Weekly values since 4/10/04) up to 15 Oct 2012



**WMA 2: Luvuvhu & Letaba (Weekly values since 4/10/04) up to 15 Oct 2012**

15 Oct 2012 = 57.3%; Oct Median = 51.5%

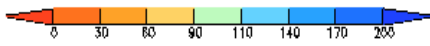
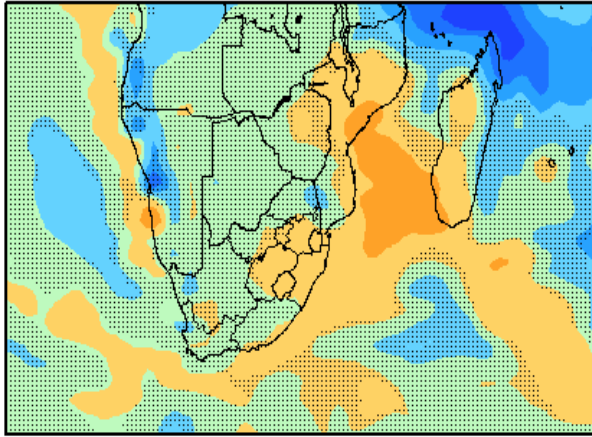


Summary WMA		Full Supply Capacity 10 <sup>6</sup> M <sup>3</sup>	Water in Storage 10 <sup>6</sup> M <sup>3</sup>	Last Year %Full	Last Week %Full	This Week %Full
1	Limpopo	280.4	224.1	93.8	81.0	79.9
2	Luvubu/Letaba	652.5	378.8	70.2	58.5	58.1
3	Crocodile (West) Marico	813.8	619.7	88.4	76.7	76.1
4	Olifants	1073.9	838.6	95.5	78.8	78.1
5	Inkomati	1049.5	913.6	96.4	87.1	87.0
6	Usutu/Mhlatuze	3276.2	2186.7	77.7	66.8	66.7
7	Thukela	1115.3	1010.9	94.4	90.6	90.6
8	Upper Vaal	5659.2	4641.2	94.6	82.2	82.0
9	Middle Vaal	1671.6	1061.5	95.3	64.1	63.5
10	Lower Vaal	108.5	87.9	96.8	77.1	81.0
11	Mvoti/Umzimkulu	801.9	670.4	90.5	83.7	83.6
12	Mzimvubu/Keiskamma	1084.0	932.0	98.4	86.8	86.0
13	Upper Orange	11428.5	10191.7	94.0	89.4	89.2
14	Lower Orange	36.1	38.0	106.5	103.9	105.3
15	Fish/Tsitsikamma	725.6	506.2	68.0	68.5	69.8
16	Gouritz	268.8	235.8	82.4	88.1	87.7
17	Olifants/Doom	128.2	128.5	99.0	99.8	100.2
18	Breede	1038.9	931.6	82.4	88.5	89.7
19	Berg	416.5	421.5	93.6	100.5	101.2
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		31629.5	26018.6	91.0	82.4	82.3

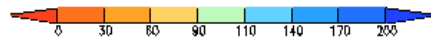
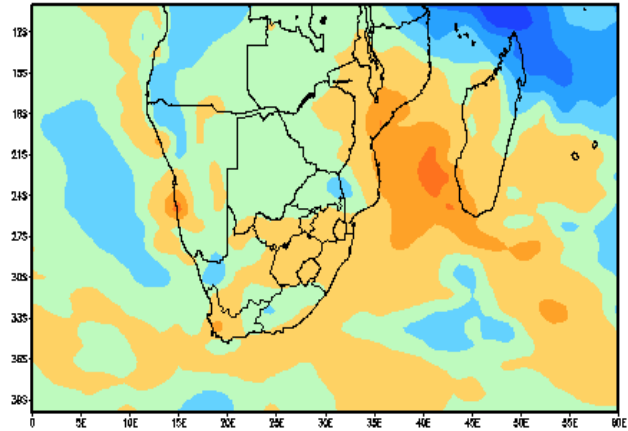
# MONTHLY FORECAST

## NOV – JAN 2013

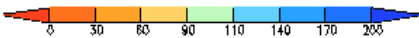
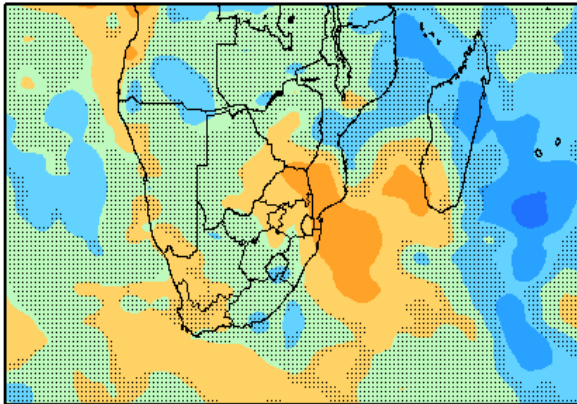
Nov 2012 Precipitation forecast (% of normal)  
Issued on 24-Oct-2012



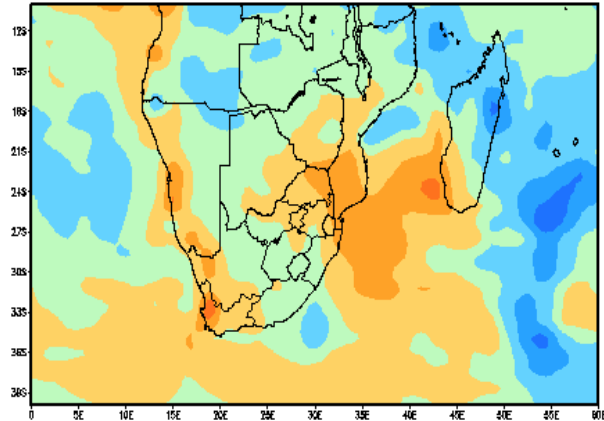
Nov2012  
Precipitation forecast (% of trimean normal)  
Issued on 24-Oct-2012



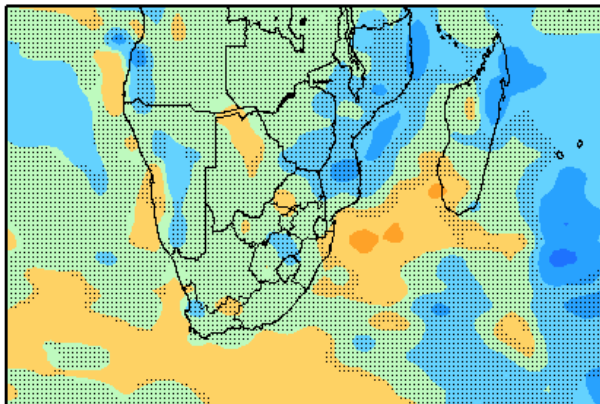
Dec 2012 Precipitation forecast (% of normal)  
Issued on 24-Oct-2012



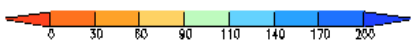
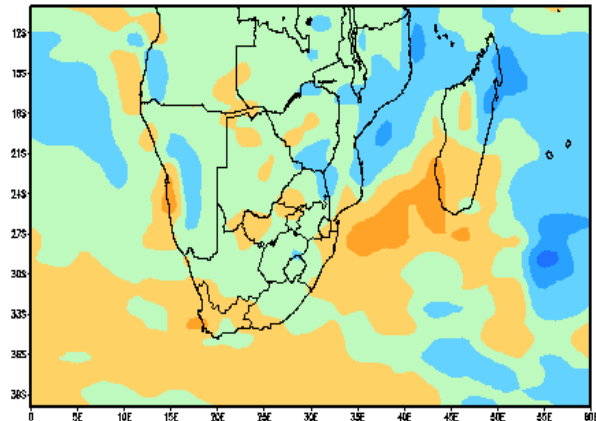
Dec2012  
Precipitation forecast (% of trimean normal)  
Issued on 24-Oct-2012

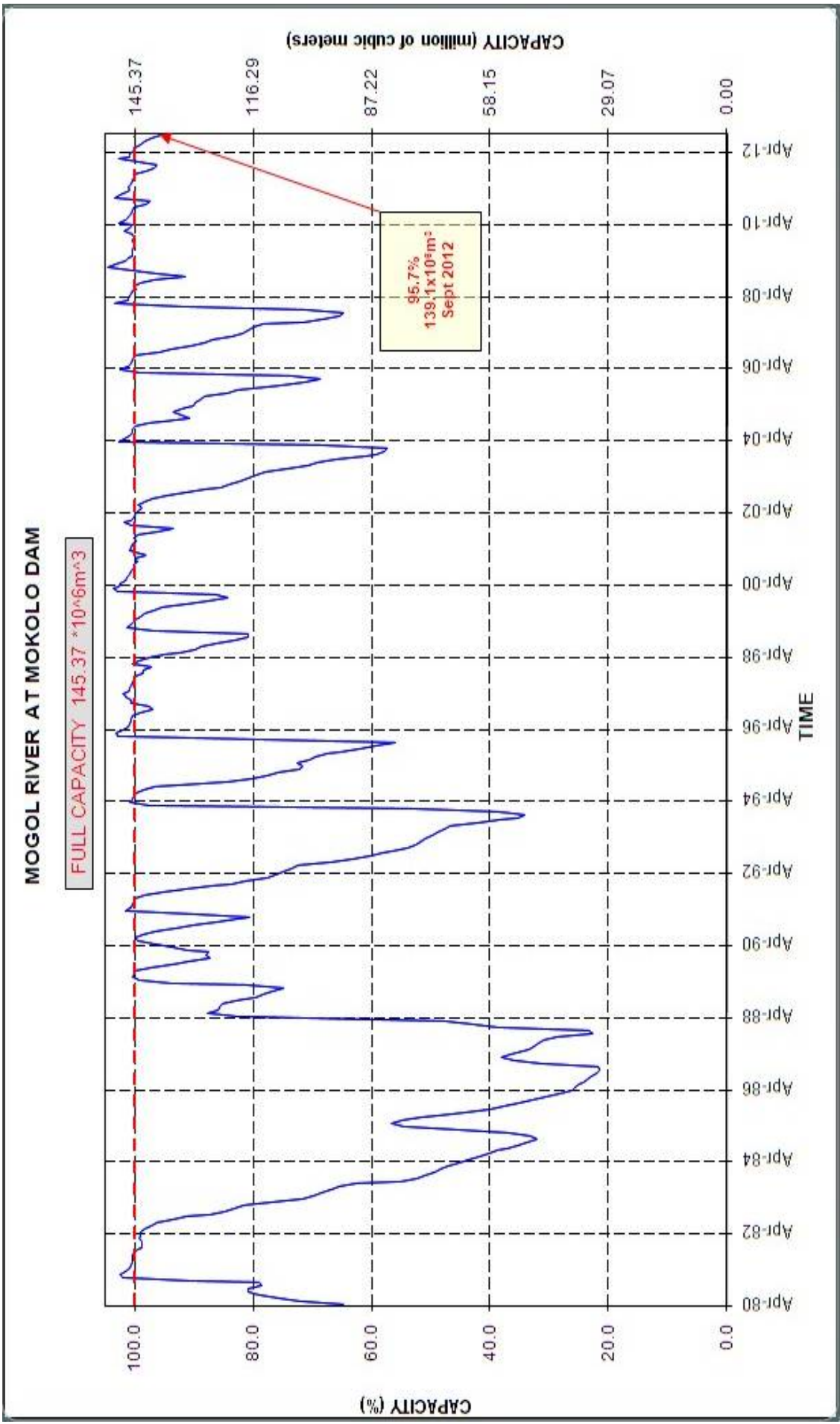


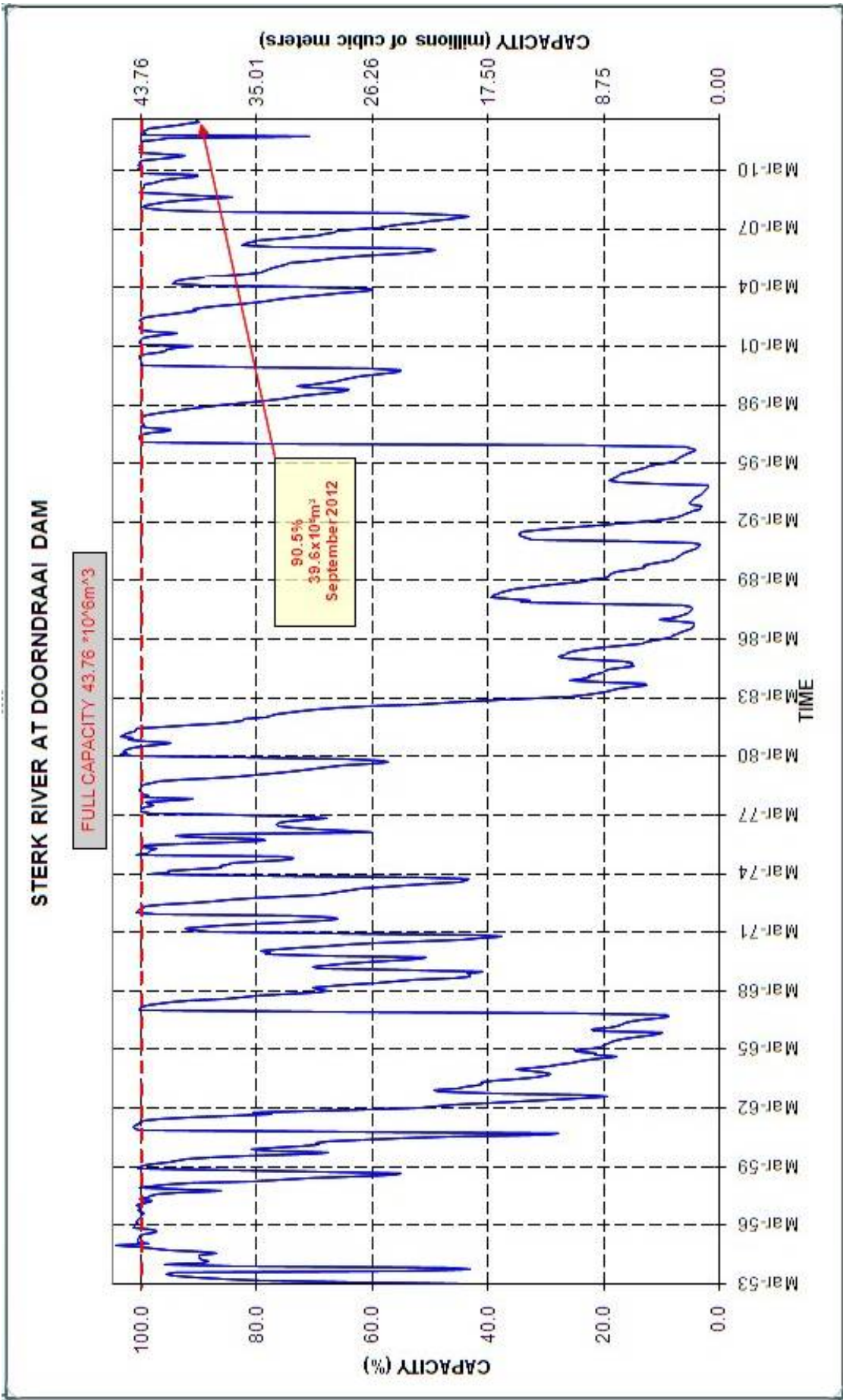
Jan 2012 Precipitation forecast (% of normal)  
Issued on 24-Oct-2012

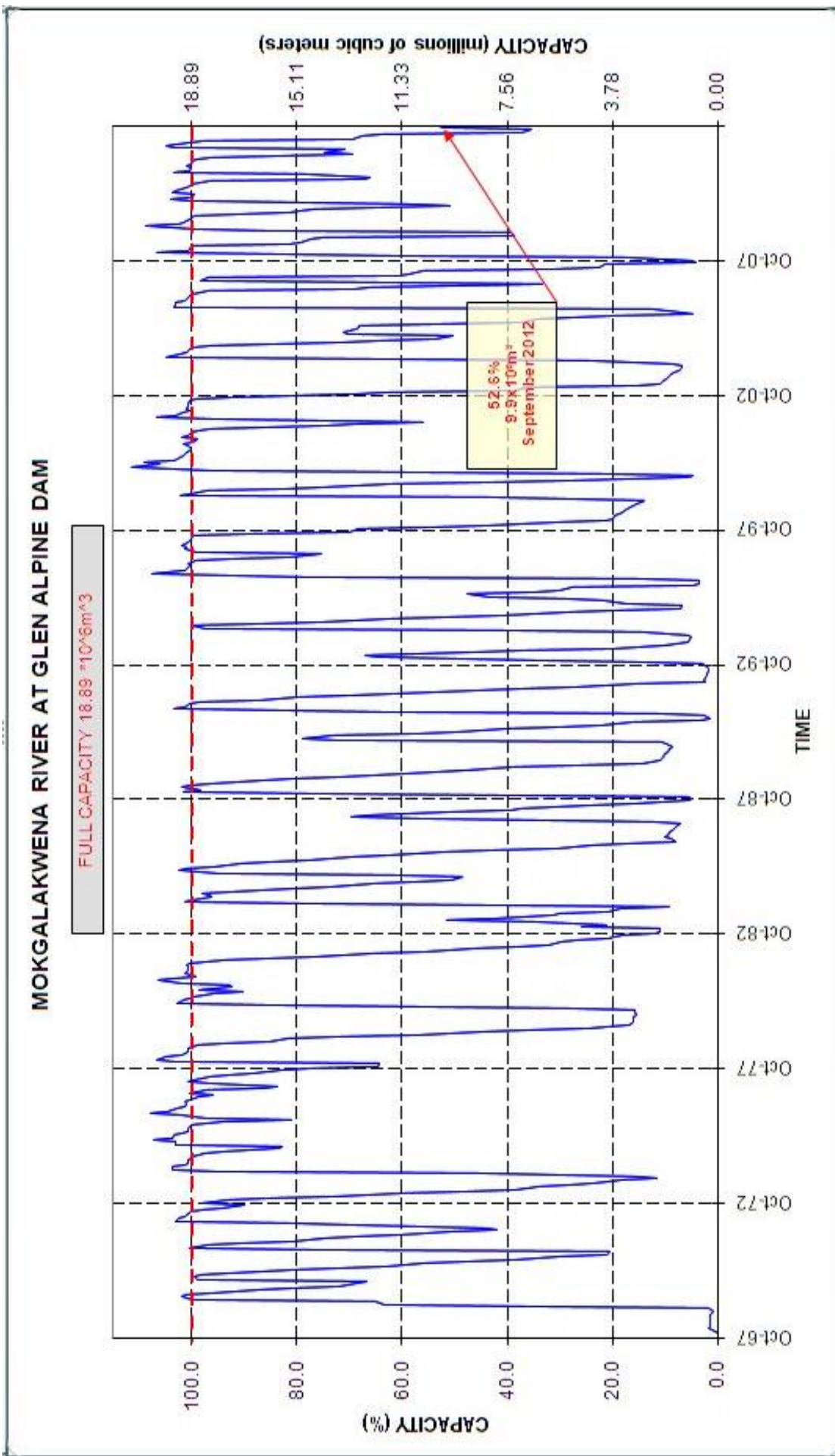


Jan2012  
Precipitation forecast (% of trimean normal)  
Issued on 24-Oct-2012

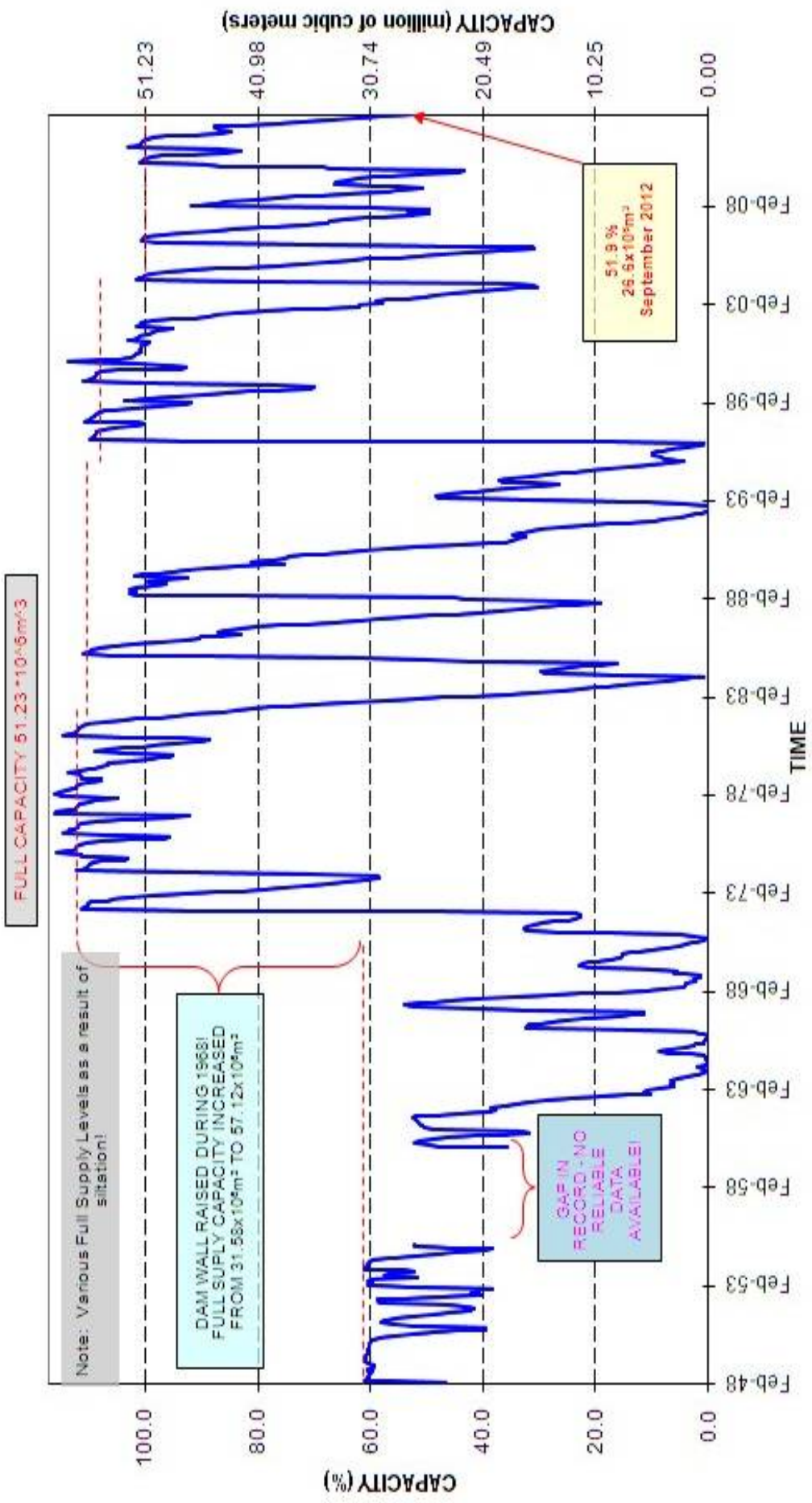


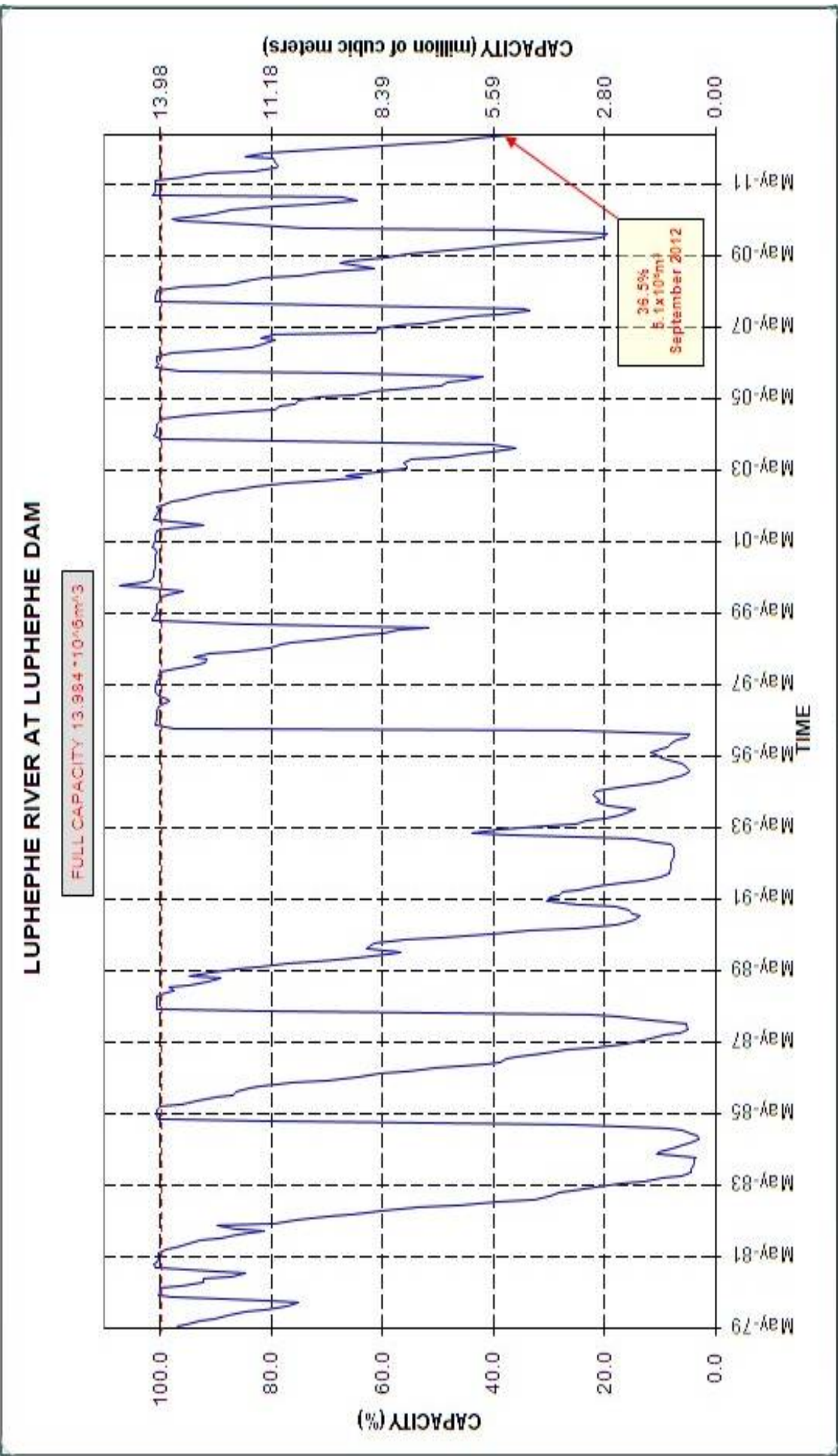


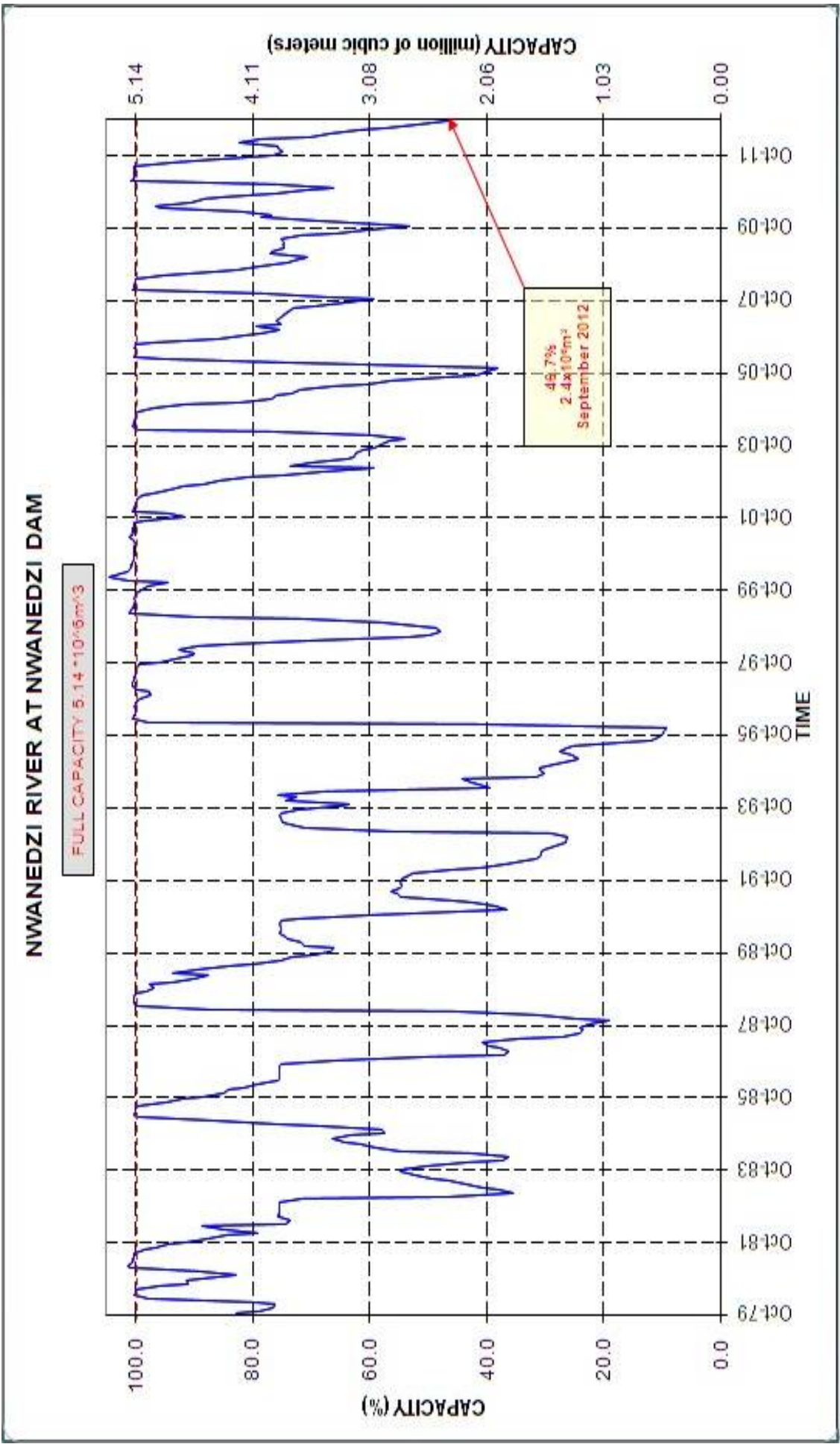


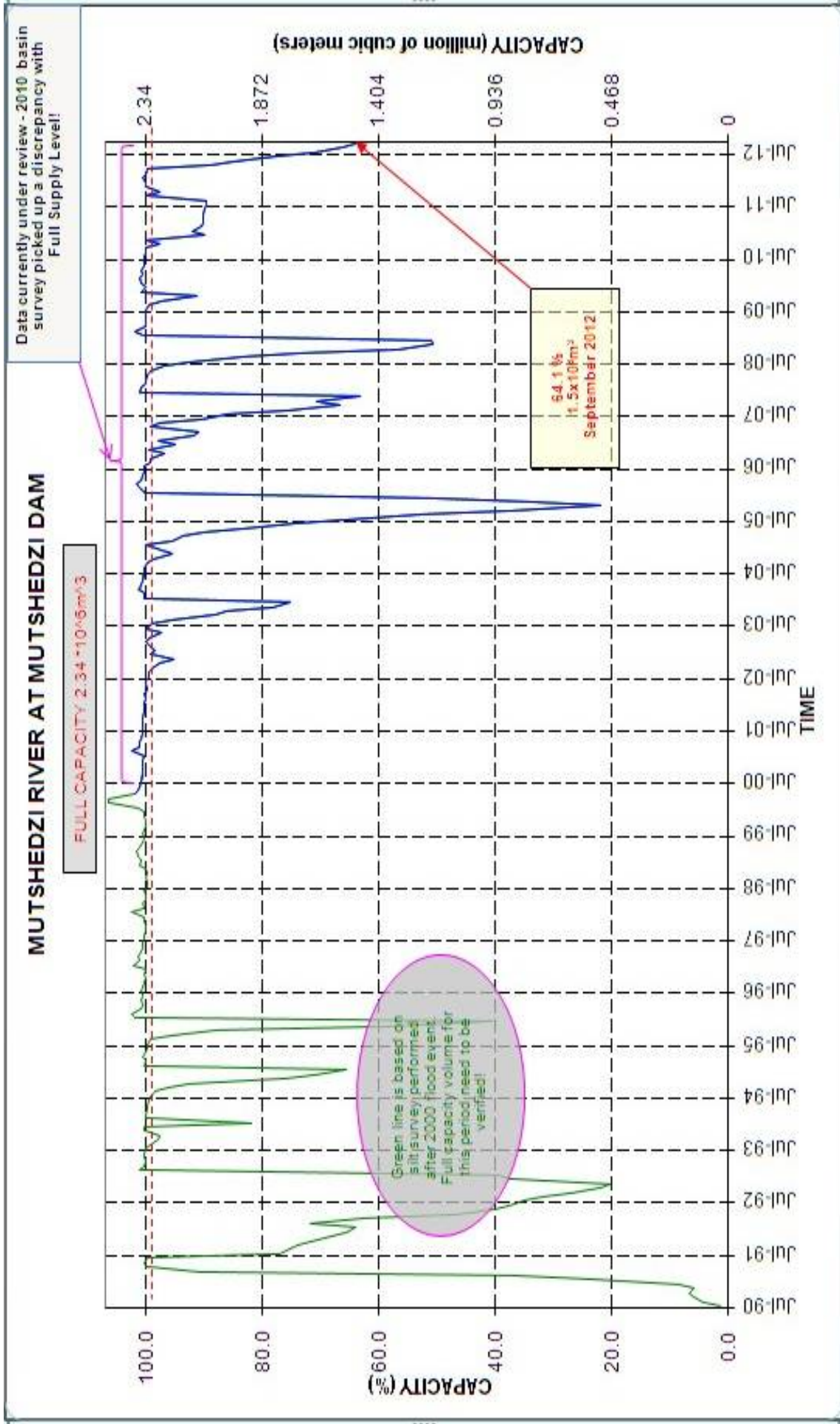


# NZHELELE RIVER AT NZHELELE DAM



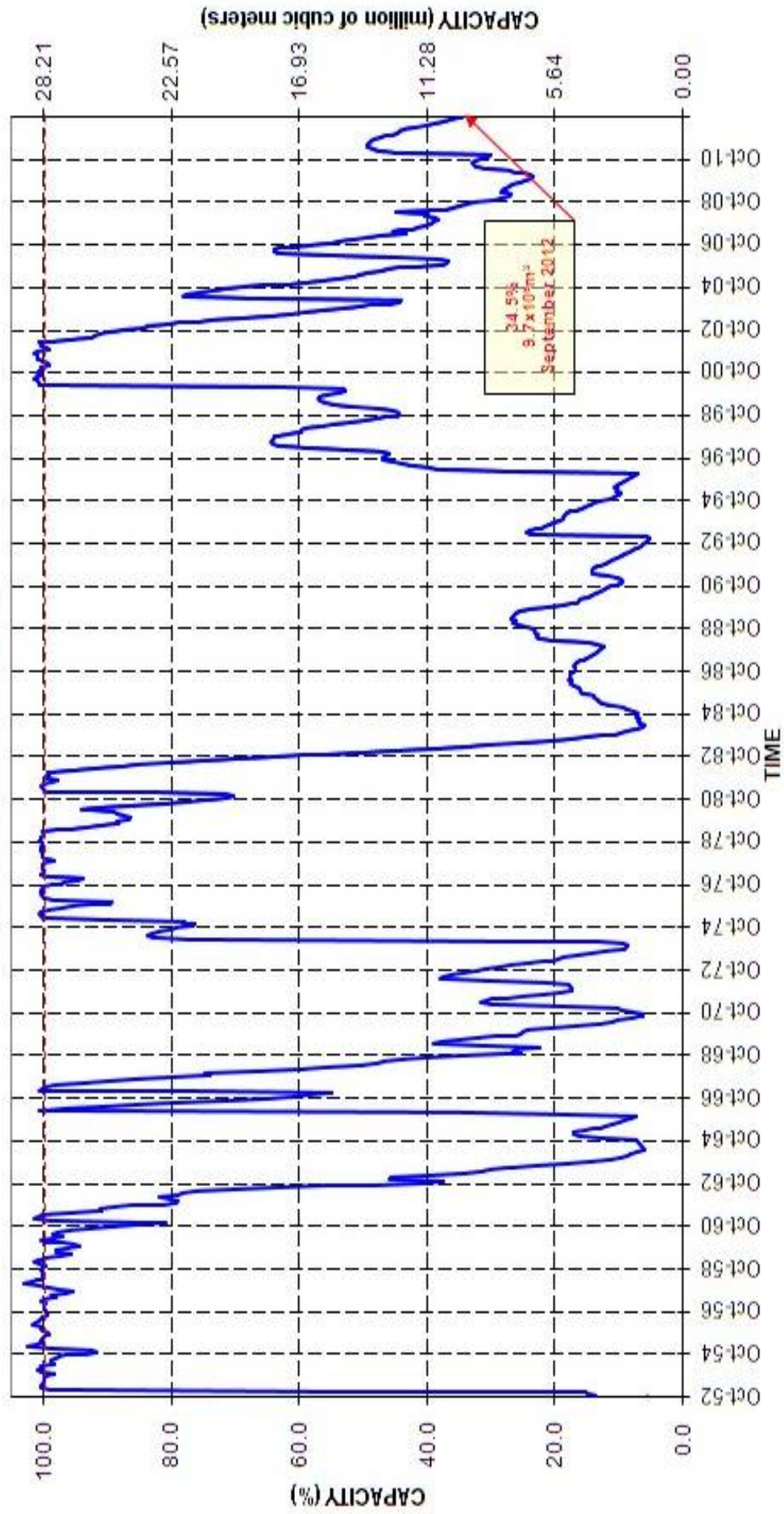


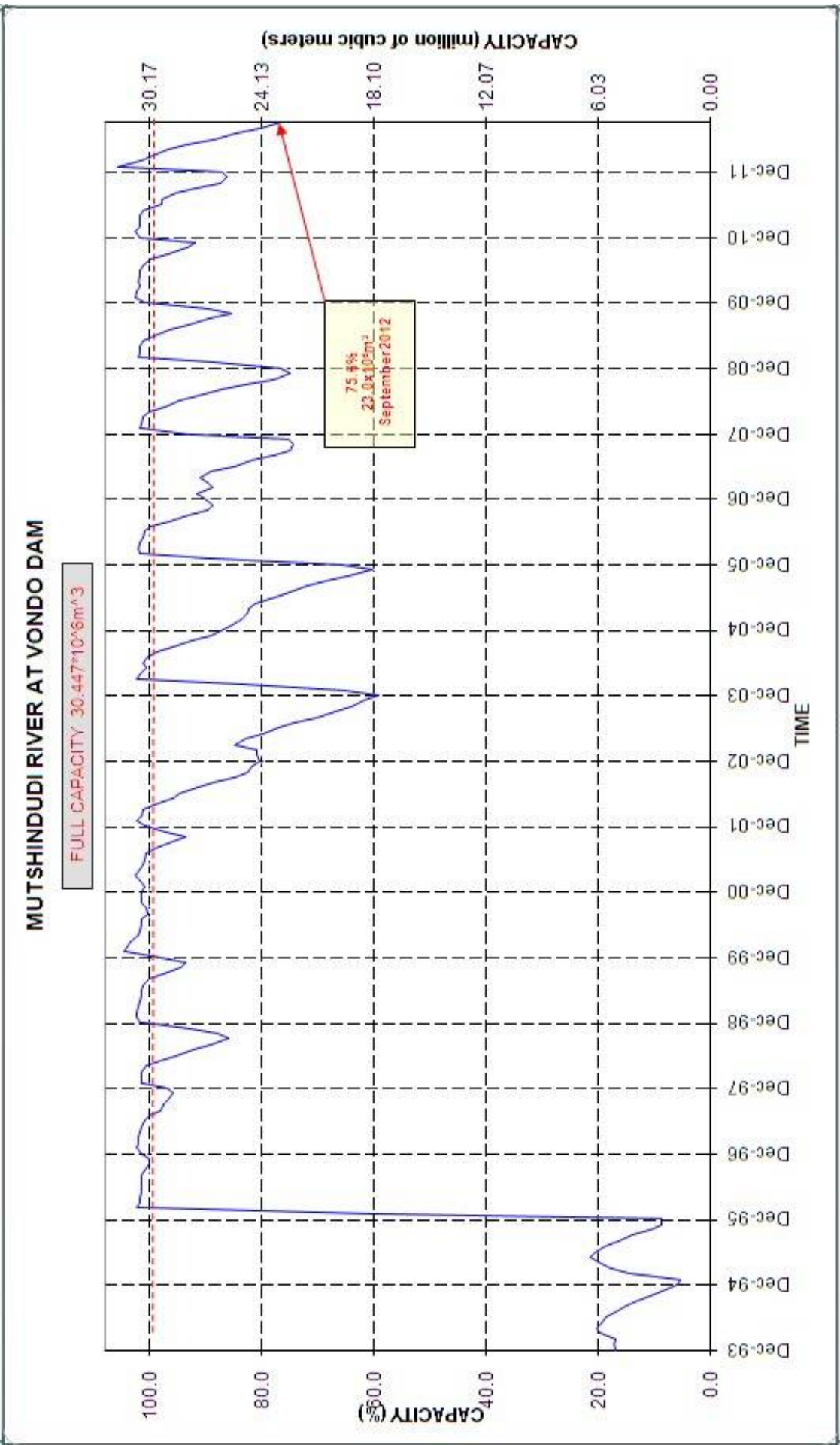


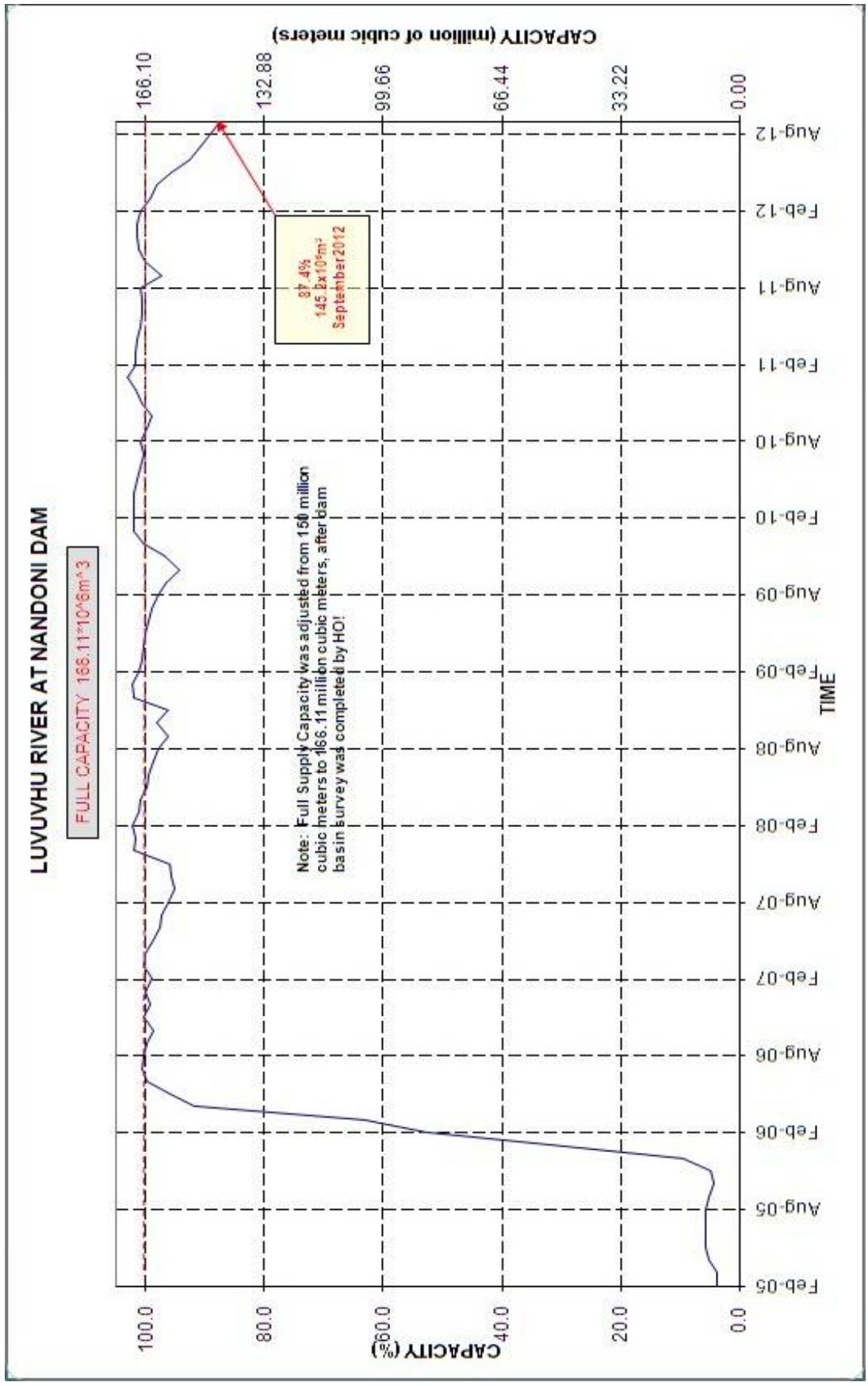


# LUVUVHU RIVER AT ALBASINI DAM

FULL CAPACITY: 28.21\*10<sup>6</sup>m<sup>3</sup>

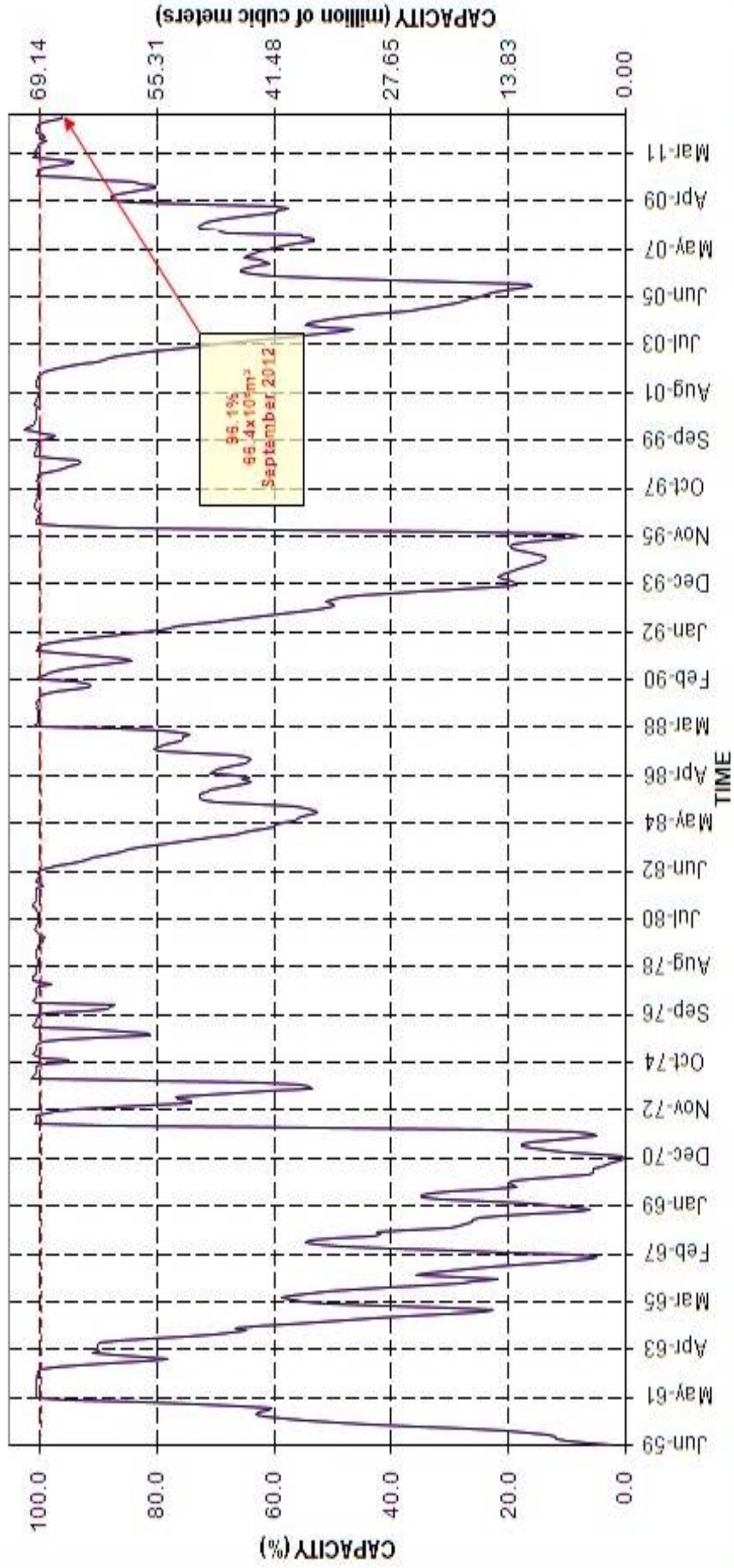






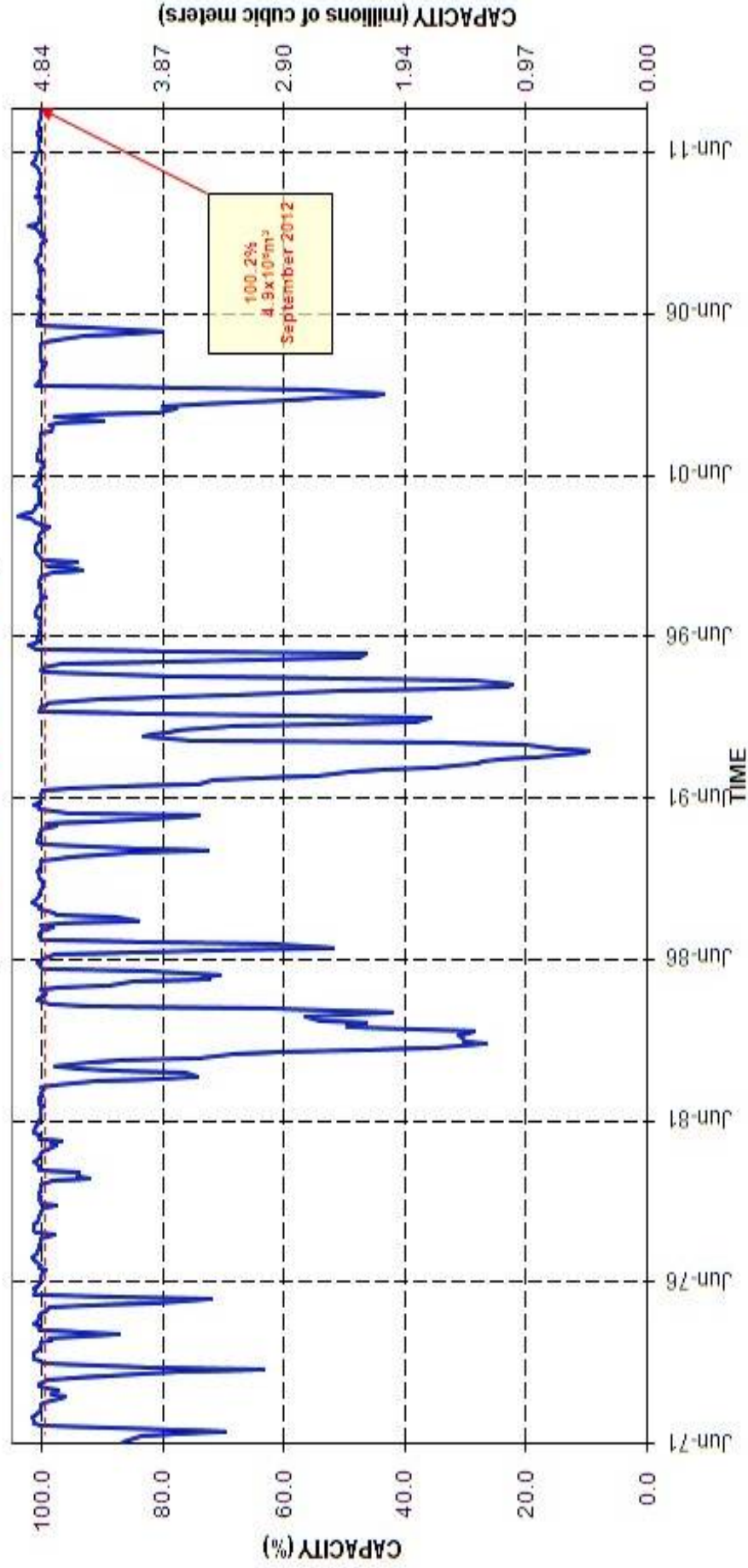
# GREAT LETABA RIVER AT EBENEZER DAM

FULL CAPACITY 69.139 \* 10^6 m^3



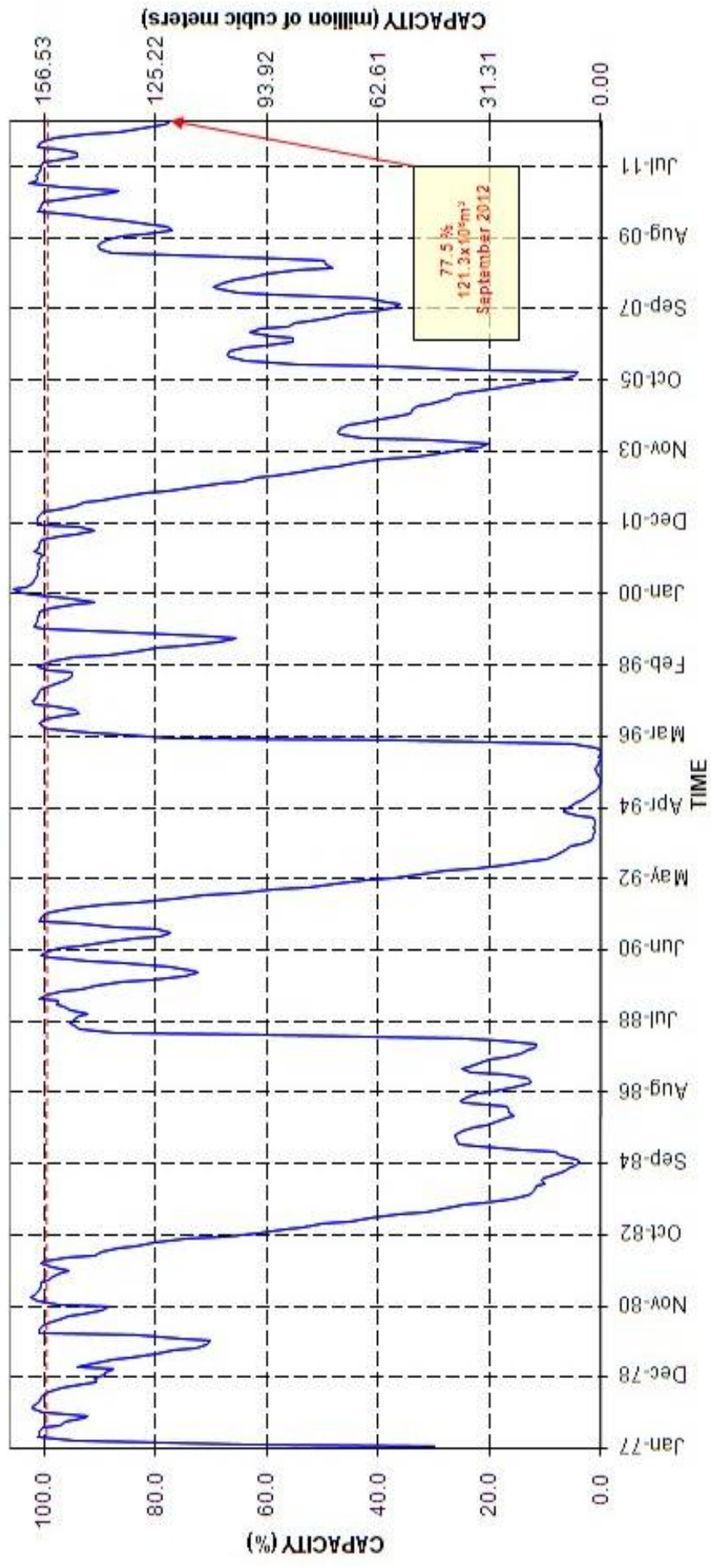
# POLITSI RIVER AT MAGOEBASKLOOF DAM

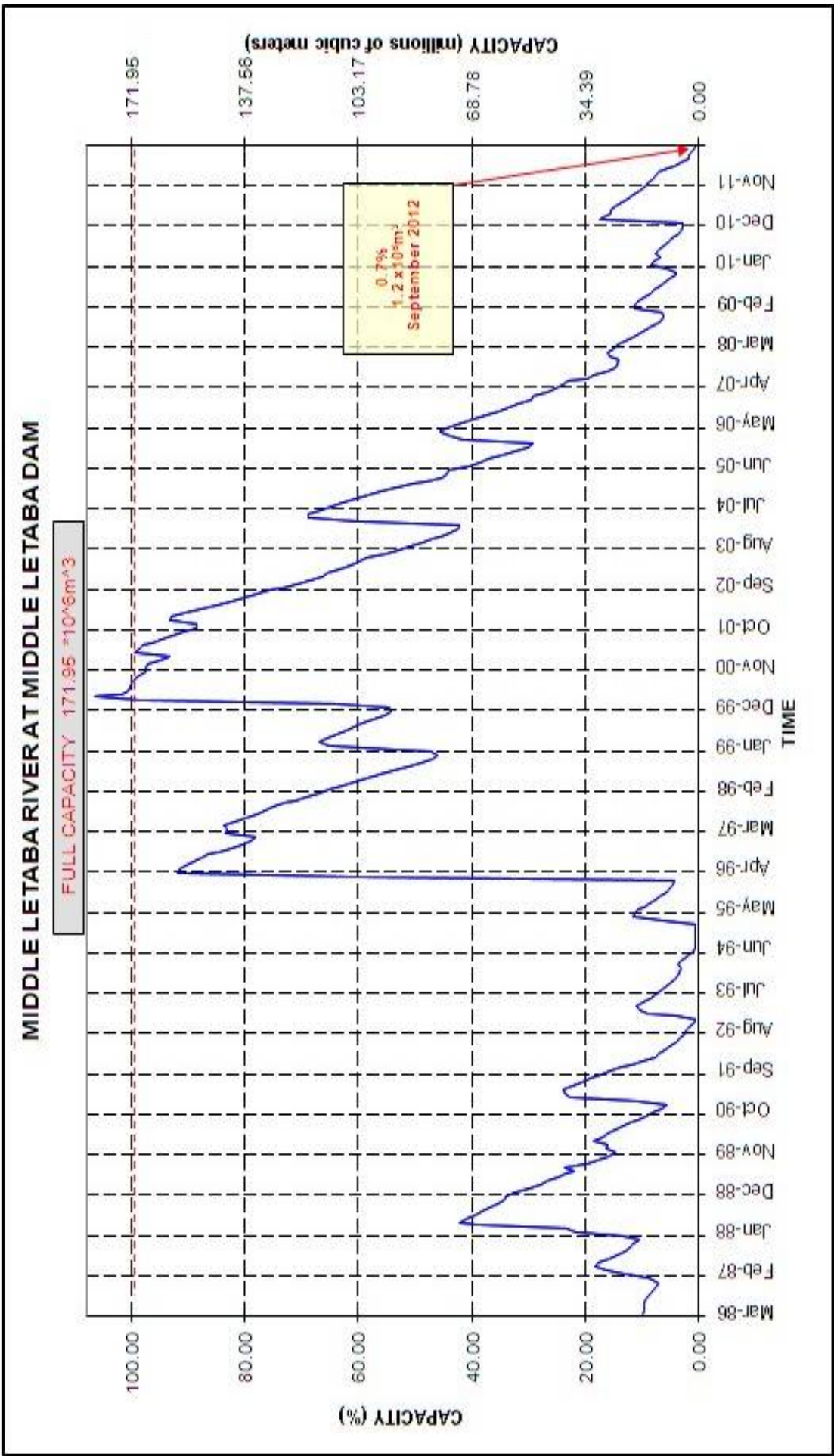
FULL CAPACITY  $4.840 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$

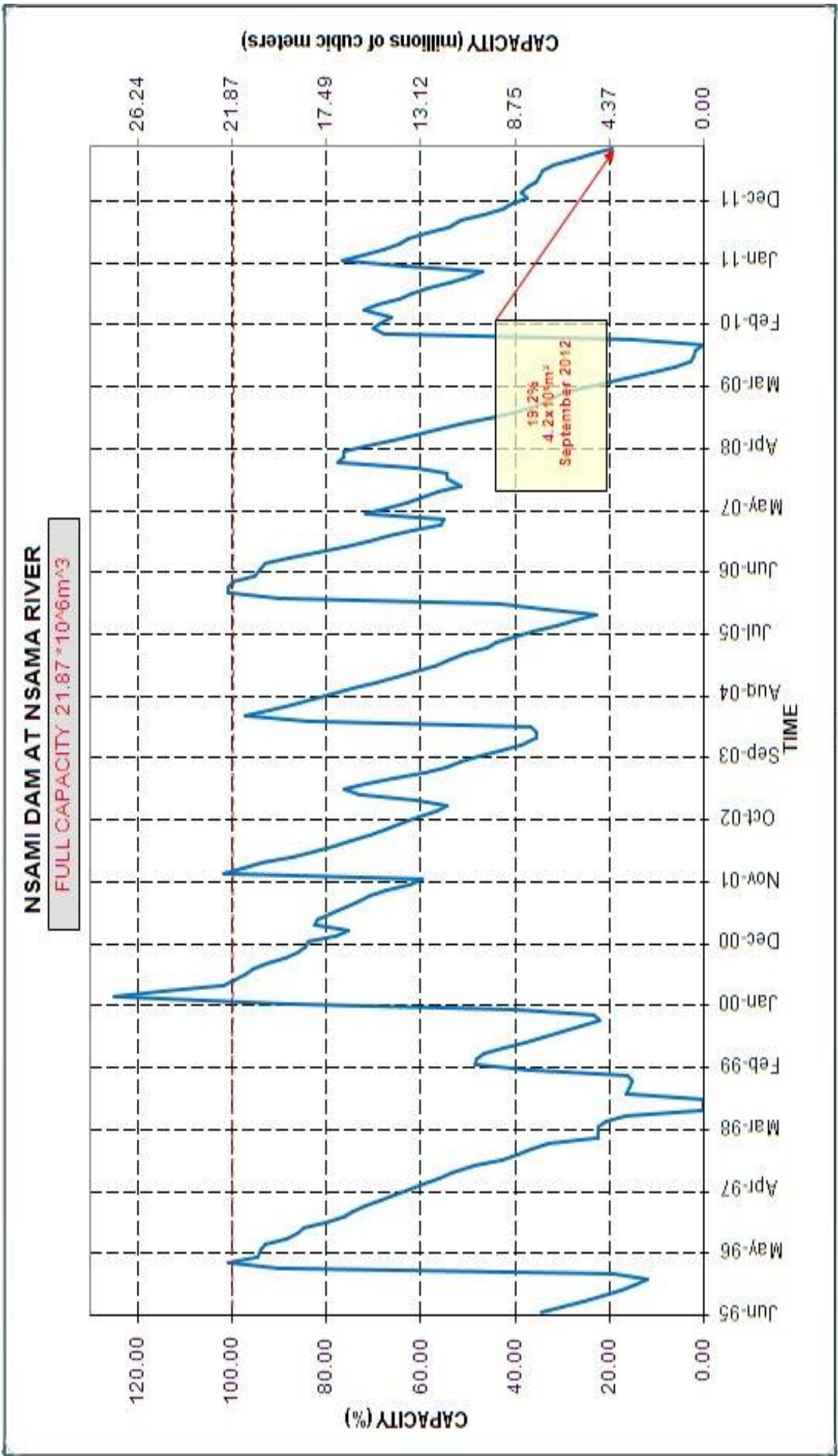


### GREAT LETABA RIVER AT TZANEEN DAM

FULL CAPACITY: 156.53 \*10<sup>6</sup>m<sup>3</sup>

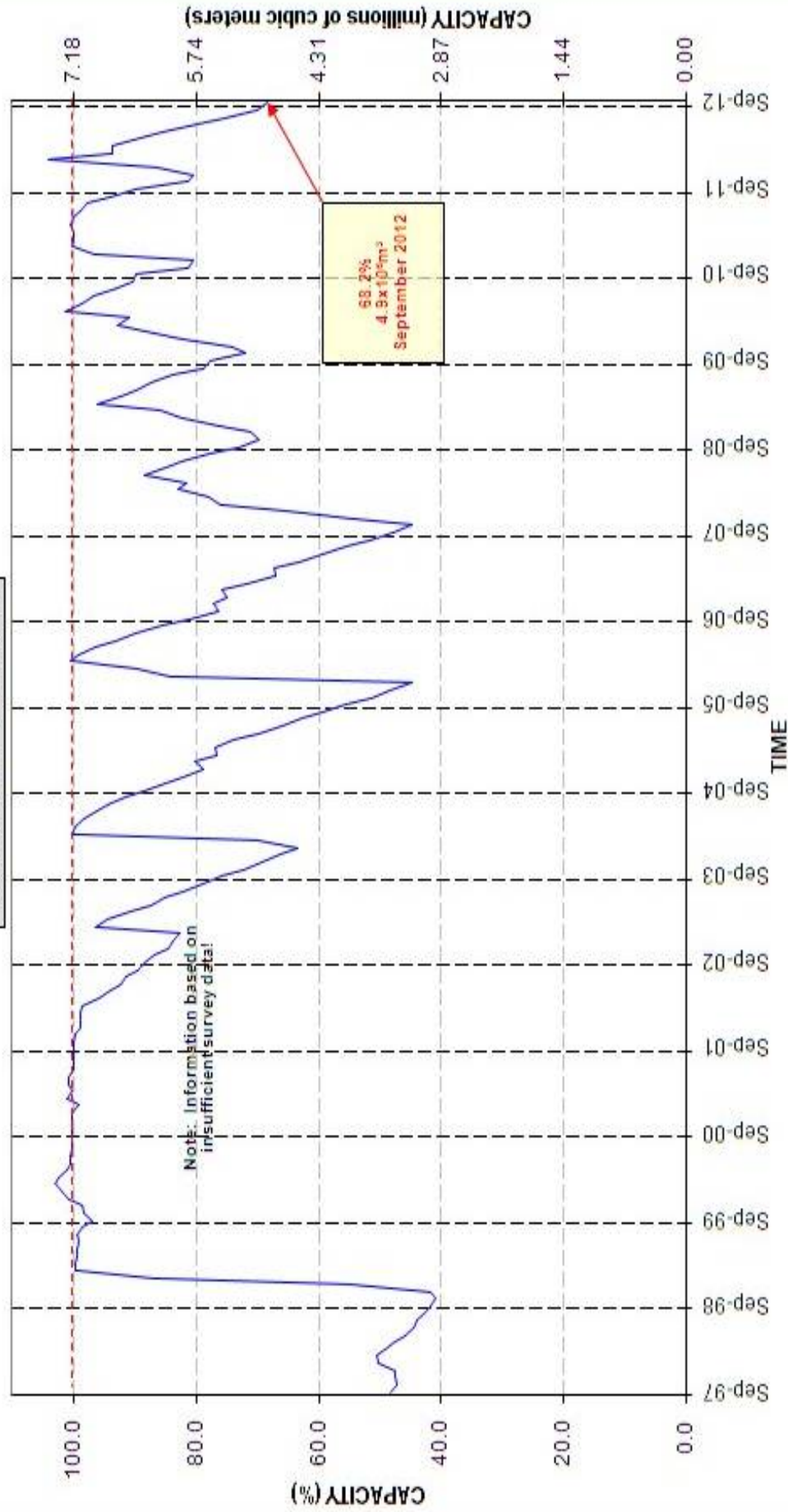






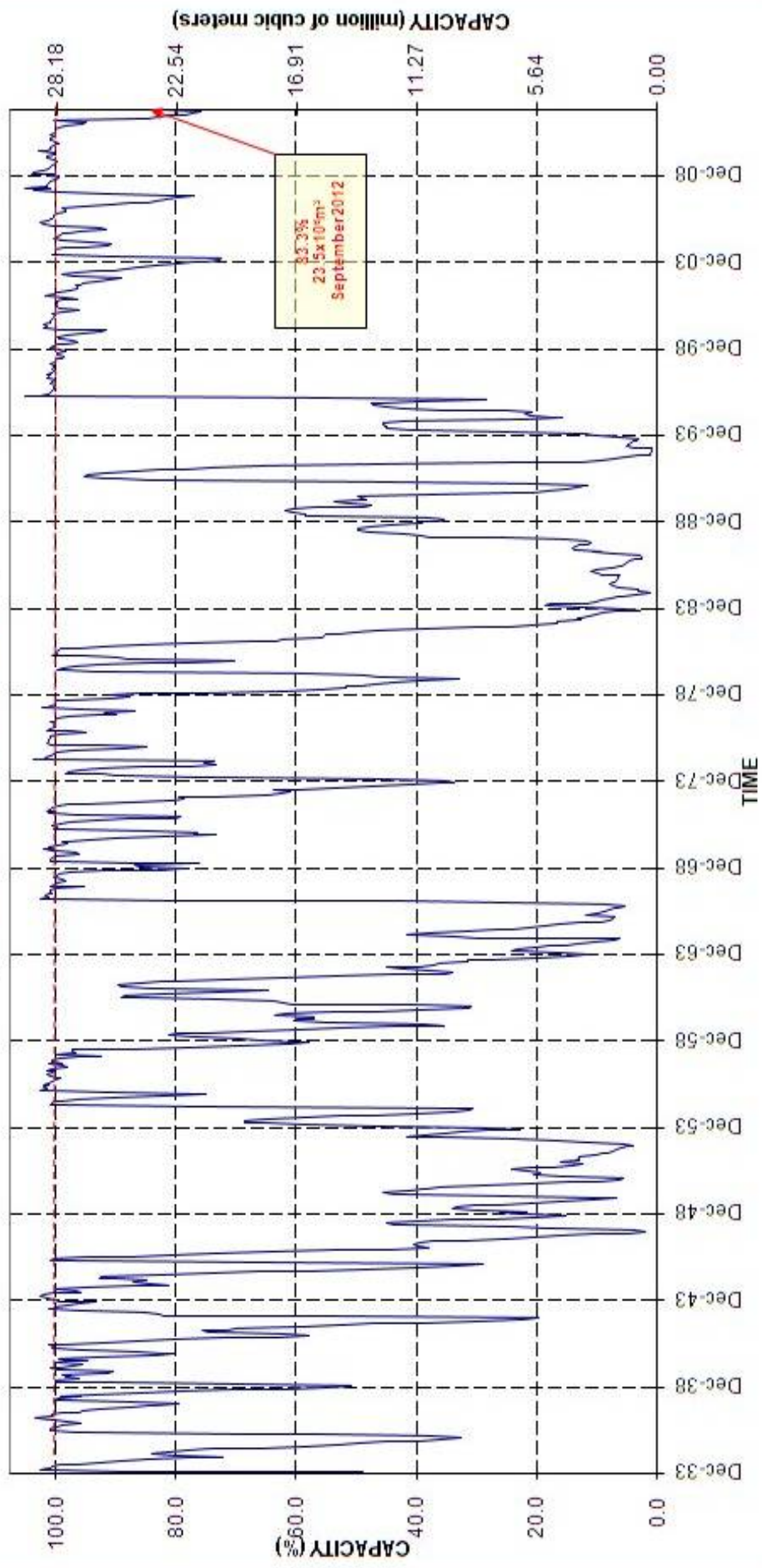
# MOLOTOTSI RIVER AT MODJADJI DAM

FULL CAPACITY 7.18\*10<sup>6</sup>m<sup>3</sup>



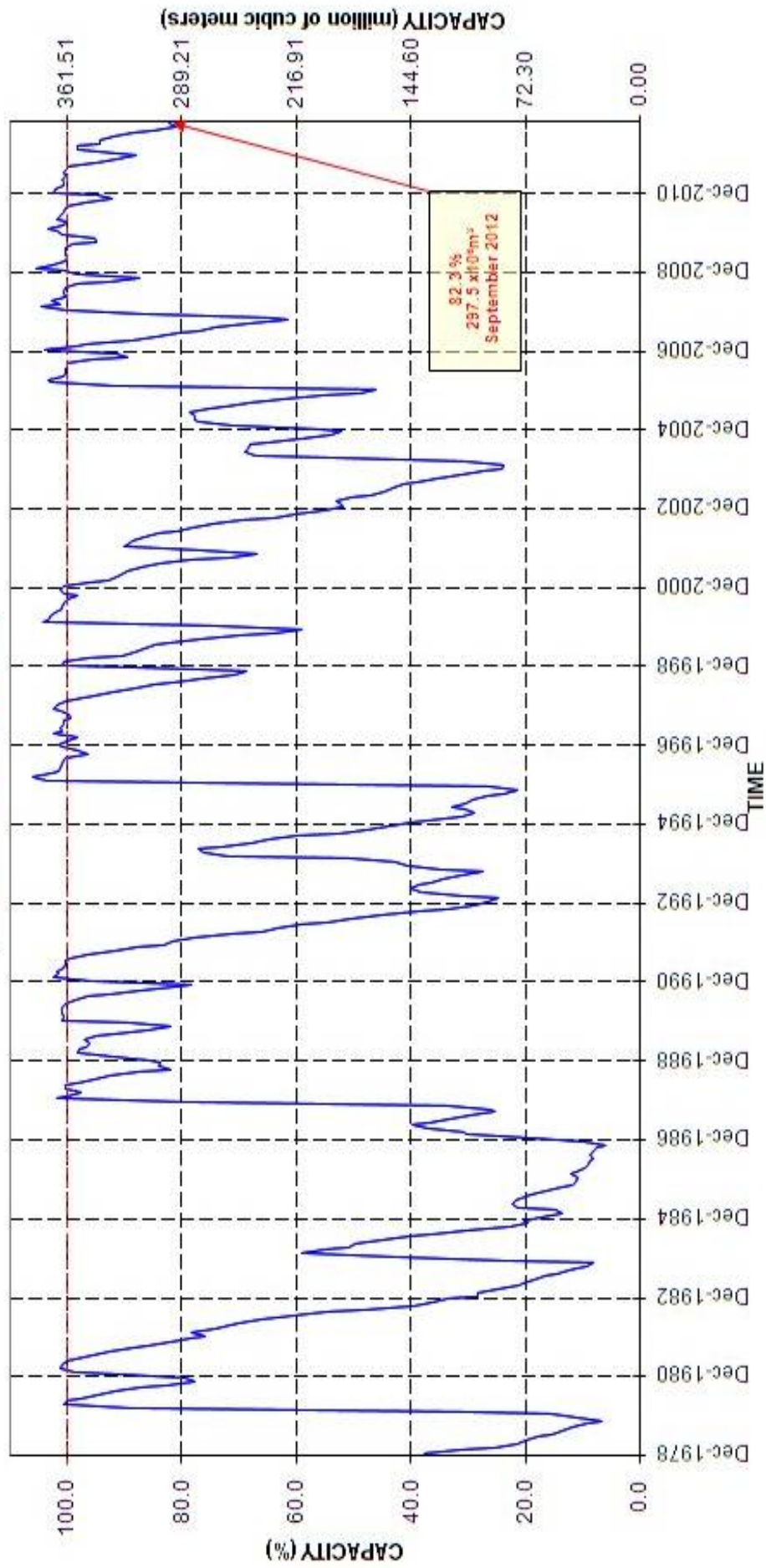
**ELANDS RIVER AT RUST DE WINTER DAM**

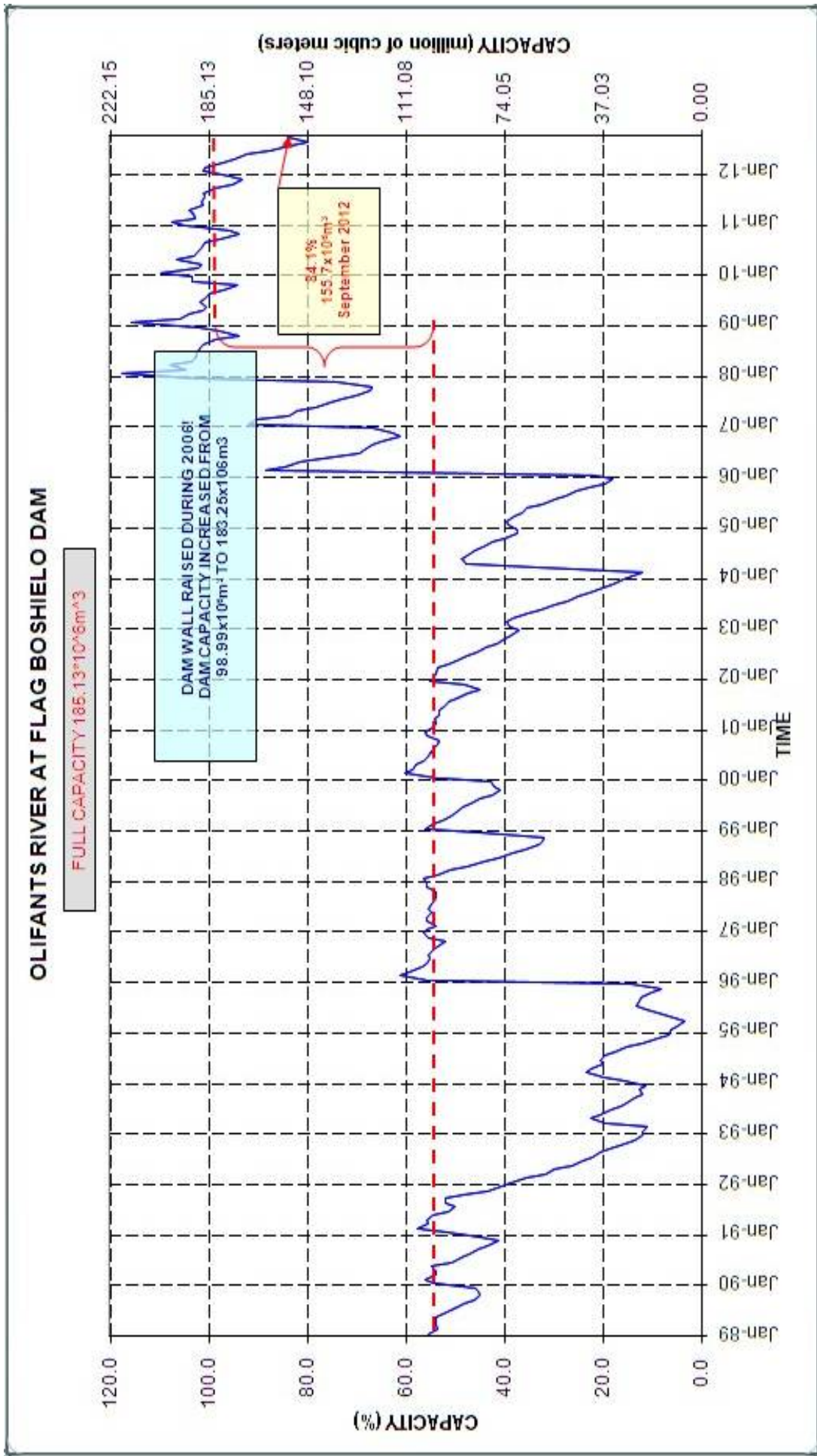
FULL CAPACITY: 28.186\*10<sup>6</sup>m<sup>3</sup>

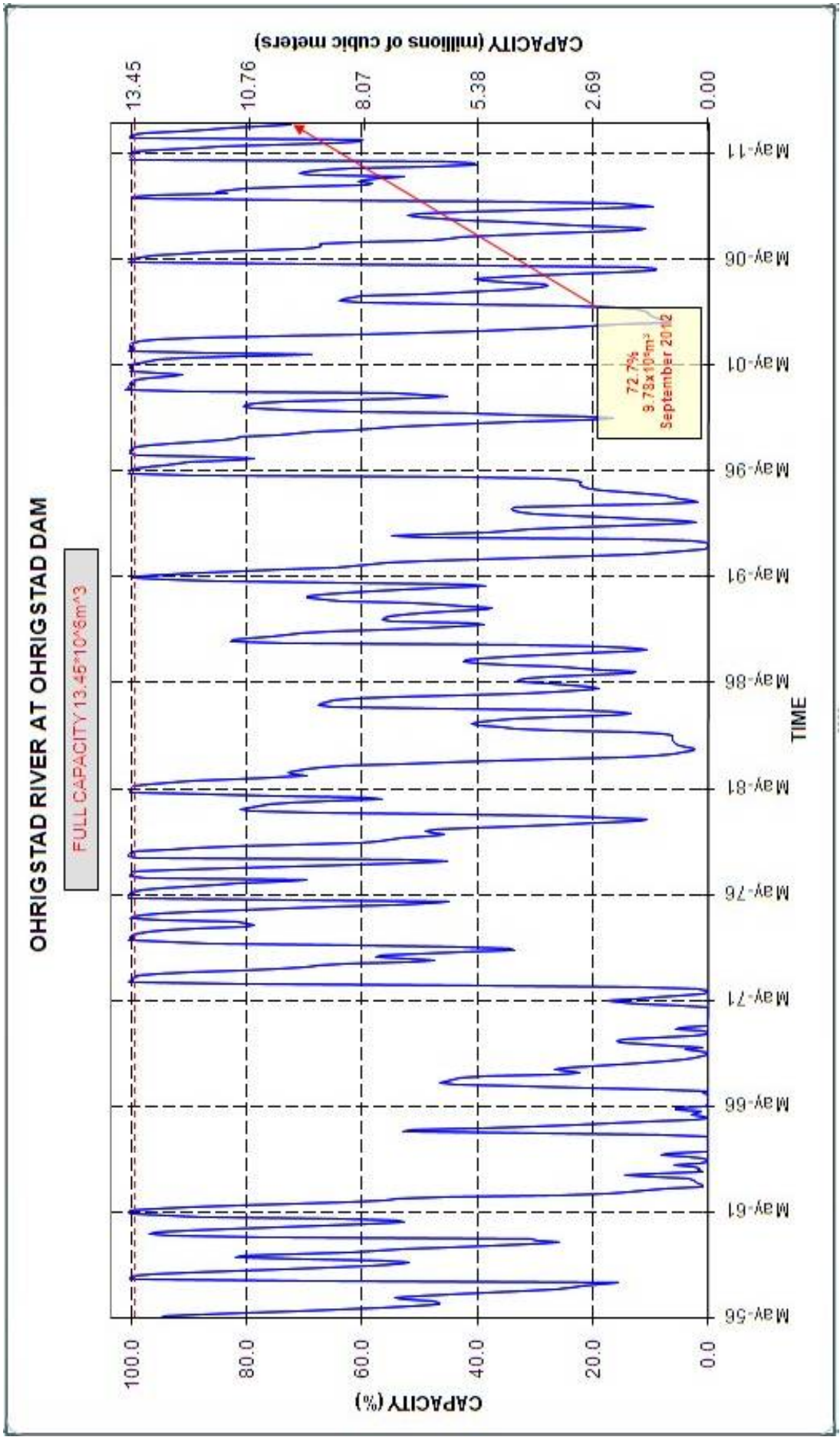


# OLIFANTS RIVER AT LOSKOP DAM

FULL CAPACITY 361.51\*10<sup>6</sup>m<sup>3</sup>

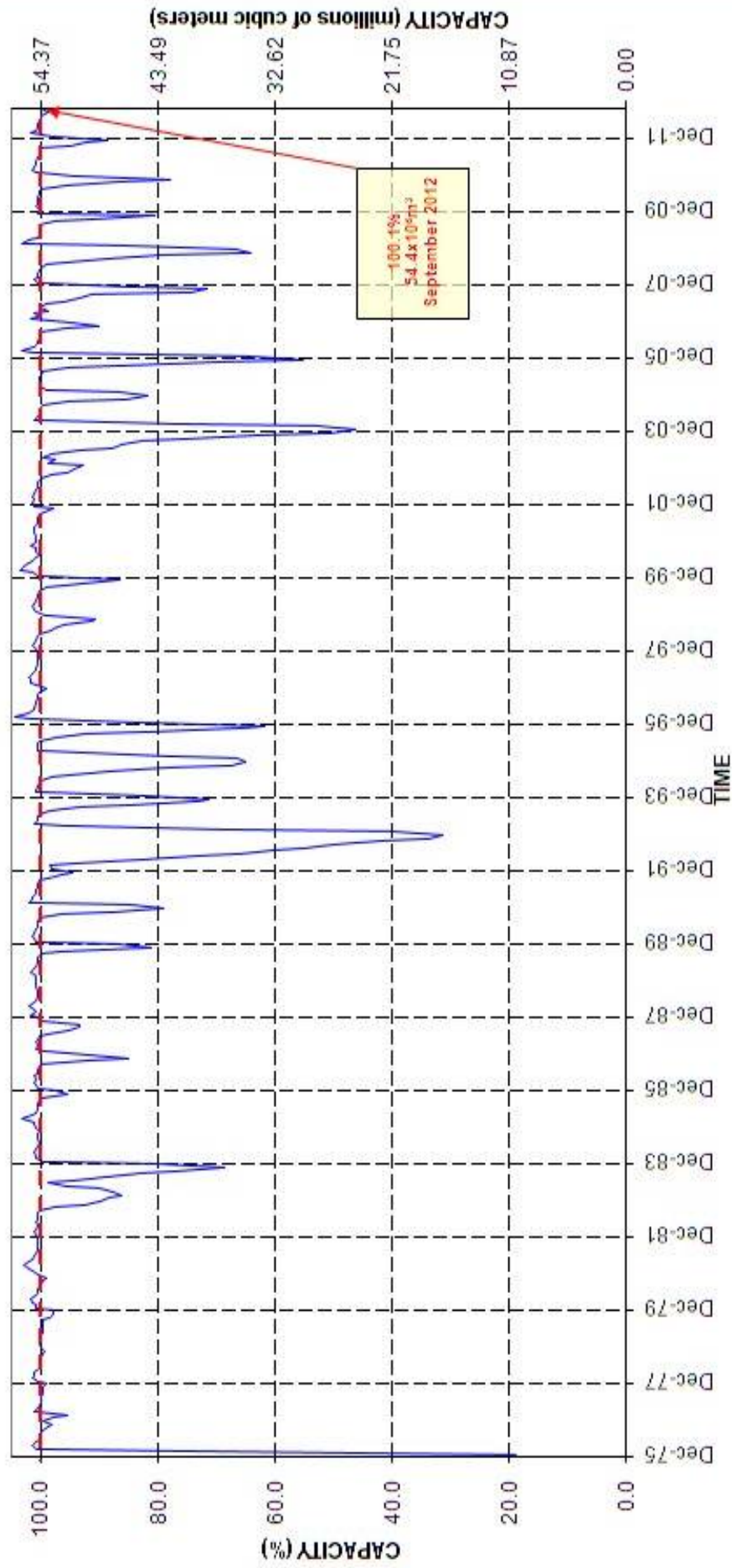






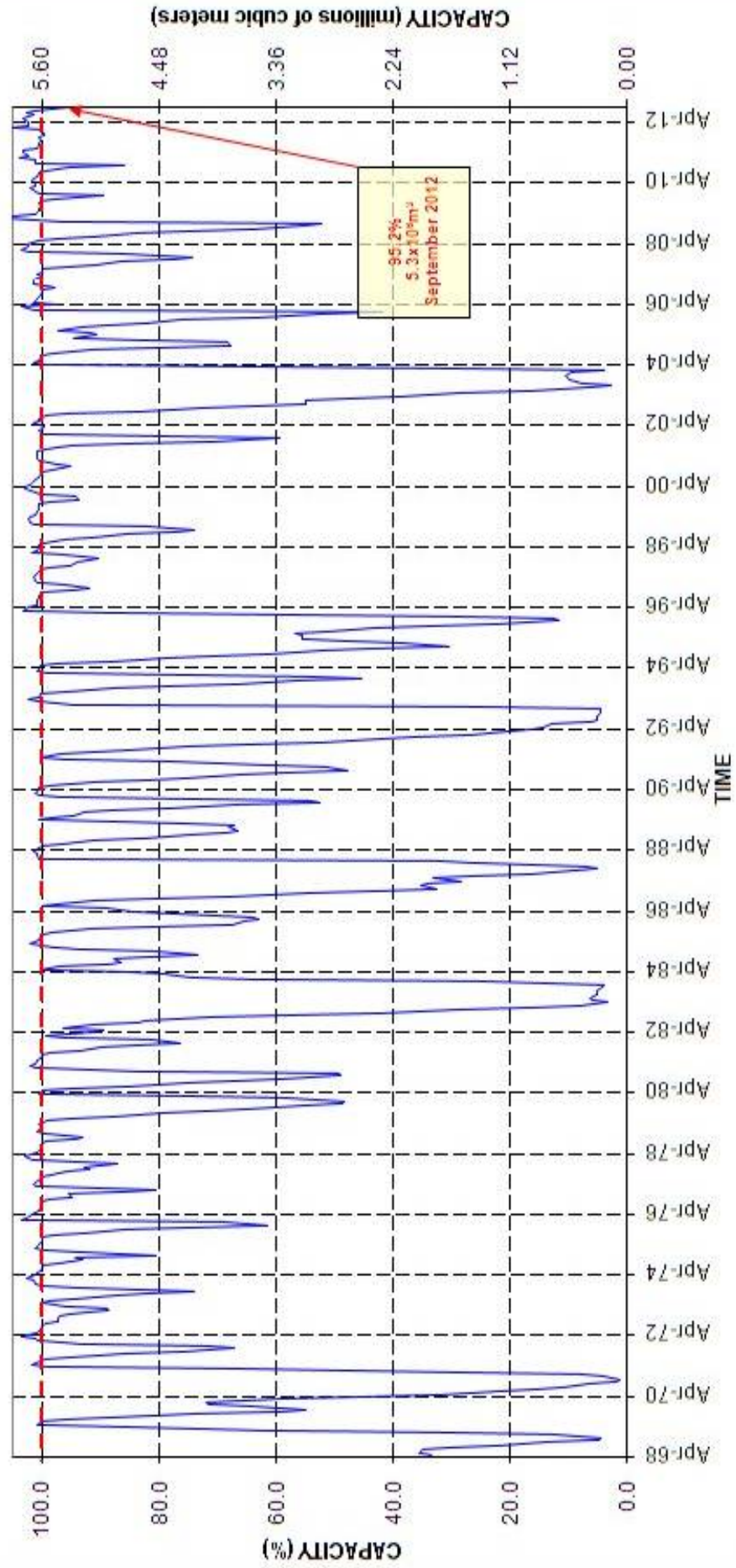
### BLYDE RIVER AT BLYDE RIVERSPOORT DAM

FULL CAPACITY  $54.369 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$

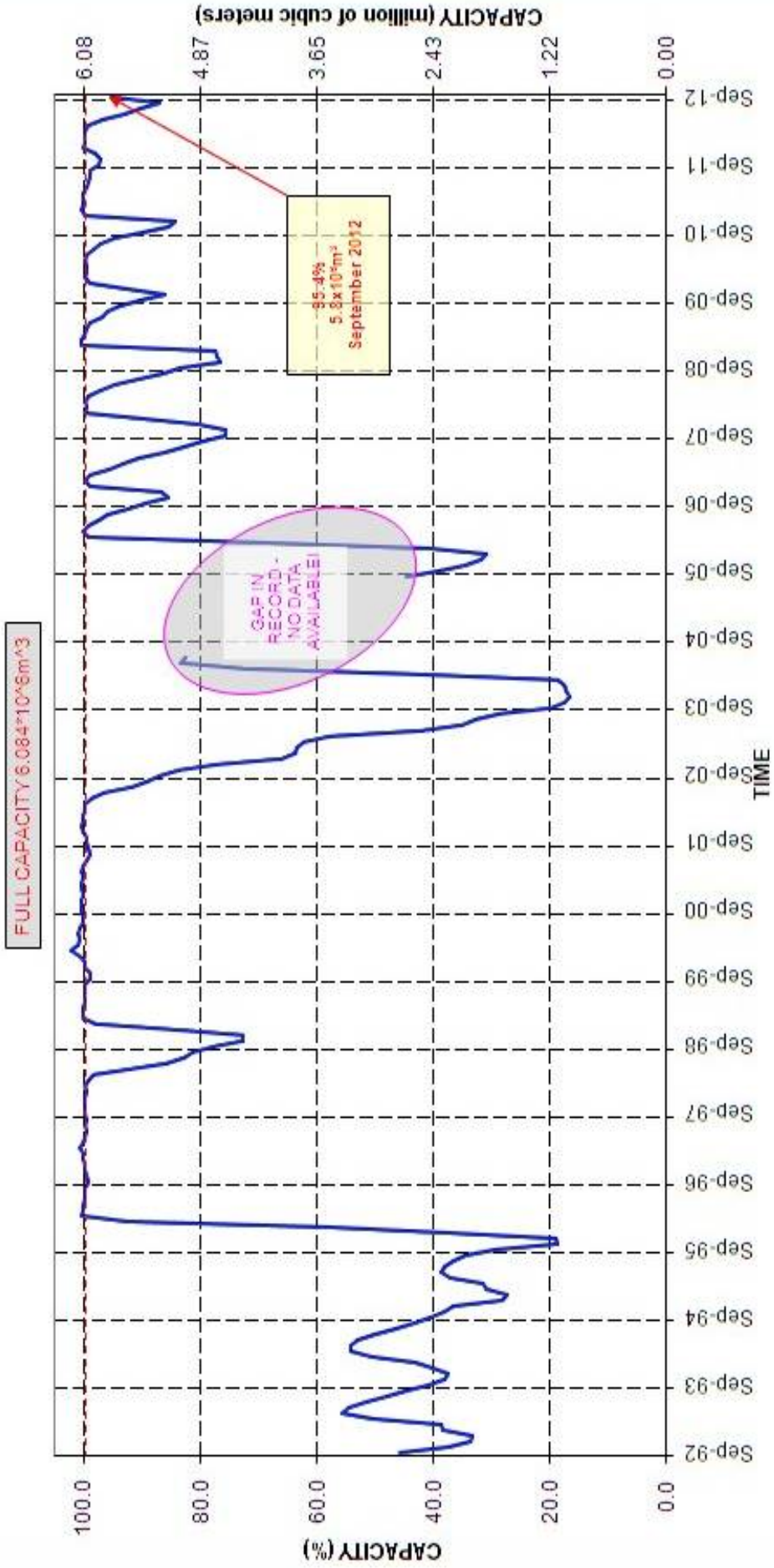


### KLASERIE RIVER AT KLASERIE DAM

FULL CAPACITY 5.604\*10<sup>6</sup>m<sup>3</sup>



# NGWABITSI RIVER AT TOURS DAM



### CROCODILE RIVER AT KWENA DAM

