



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**WATER RESOURCE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

**STATUS ON MONITORING &
SURFACE WATER LEVEL TRENDS
October 2014 to March 2015**

**D VILJOEN
June 2015**

GH4334



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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The majority of dams used in this report have less water than during the corresponding period last year. In the Limpopo Water Management Area the following dam levels are of concern: the Luphephe Dam is at 65.4% and the Nwanedzi Dam is at 59.4%. In the Luvuvhu / Letaba Water Management Area the following dam levels are of concern: the Middle Letaba Dam is at 41.4%, the Nsami Dam is at 63.7%, the Tzaneen Dam is at 76.6% and Modjadji Dam at 65.1%.

The average storage volume for the Limpopo WMA is 265.2 million cubic meters (94.6%) and is 21.4 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year (102.2%).

The average storage volume for the Luvuvhu / Letaba WMA is 503.77 million cubic meters (76.4%) and is 87.7 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year (89.66%).

The average storage volume for the Olifants WMA is 1256.8 million cubic meters (88.3%). **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 1004.9 million cubic meters (95.8%) and is 54.1 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year (100.9%).

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 March 2015.

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

No river flow gauging stations graphs have been attached but a few peak flows worth mentioning is listed below:

2.1 Highest peak flows measured at gauging stations during the past rainy season up to the end of March 2015.

Station Number	RIVER AND PLACE	DATE AND TIME HEIGHT	FLOW (m ³ /s)
A4R001	Mokolo at Hans Strijdom Natres	2014/12/23, 20:14, 42.196m	21.1
A4H005	Mokolo at Dwaalhoek	2015/02/03, 06:36, 0.688m	29.5
A6R001	Mogalakwena at Glen Alpine Dam	2015/01/04, 15.652m	72.6
A7H007	Sand at Waterpoort	2014/12/30, 14:12, 2.754m	311.9
A7H008	Limpopo at Beit Bridge	2014/12/29, 17:24, 1.686m	736
A9H012	Levuvhu at Mhinga	2015/12/30, 00:00, 1.958m	134.2
B7H015	Olifants at Mamba (Approximately 8 km inside the western border of the Kruger National Park at Phalaborwa)	2014/12/29, 00:12, 1.915m	457
A9R004	Levhuvhu at Nandoni Dam	2014/12/29, 23:13, 29.892m	15.7
B8H018	Great Letaba at Engelhardt Dam (before confluence with Olifants River at Letaba Camp in the KNP)	2014/12/30, 18:12, 0.596m	85.3

2.2 Rainfall figures for the Limpopo WMA based on daily readings indicated on monthly returns.

DAM	OCT'14 (mm)	NOV'14 (mm)	DEC'14 (mm)	JAN'15 (mm)	FEB'15 (mm)	MAR'15 (mm)	TOTAL (mm)
Mokolo	5.0	77.50	204.40	36.90	93.50	78.50	495.80
Doorndraai	14.50	89.90	243.00	153.10	57.00	52.00	609.50
Glen Alpine	14.0	84.50	133.80	83.30	8.00	62.70	386.30
Nzhelele	9.0	133.60	127.00	27.00	43.70	30.00	370.30
Nwanedzi	9.4	224.00	50.10	10.10	49.50	20.20	363.30
Mutshedzi	5.0	26.30	203.0	30.40	52.00	40.30	357.00

2.3 Rainfall figures for the Levhuvhu / Letaba WMA based on daily readings indicated on monthly returns.

DAM	OCT'14 (mm)	NOV'14 (mm)	DEC'14 (mm)	JAN'15 (mm)	FEB'15 (mm)	MAR'15 (mm)	TOTAL (mm)
Albasini	8.60	77.50	224.80	67.50	65.00	38.70	482.10
Nandoni	21.10	60.30	130.30	60.30	57.20	63.90	393.10
Ebenezer	48.80	78.90	318.30	283.80	64.80	92.45	888.05
Magoebaskloof	22.80	112.10	211.70	217.50	48.00	108.20	720.30
Tzaneen	35.80	20.70	108.40	127.50	38.20	96.80	427.40
Modjadji	18.80	30.50	68.40	38.50	43.30	19.90	219.40
Nsami	5.50	12.50	241.00	20.50	44.30	37.00	360.80

2.4 Rainfall figures for the Olifants WMA based on daily readings indicated on monthly returns.

DAM	OCT'14 (mm)	NOV'14 (mm)	DEC'14 (mm)	JAN'15 (mm)	FEB'15 (mm)	MAR'15 (mm)	TOTAL (mm)
Loskop	47.0	66.8	No Data*	83.0	69.0	17.5	283.3*
Flag Boshielo	31.8	85.3	No Data*	103.00	56.8	6.6	283.5*

2.5 Rainfall figures for the Inkomati WMA based on daily readings indicated on monthly returns

DAM	OCT'14 (mm)	NOV'14 (mm)	DEC'14 (mm)	JAN'15 (mm)	FEB'15 (mm)	MAR'15 (mm)	TOTAL (mm)
Kwena	36.2	105.2	233.4	83.8	128.4	71.2	658.2
Inyaka	84.6	79.2	263.6	31.9	59.0	148.8	667.1

To give an indication of what the normal rainfall was for the period July 2014 up to March 2015, see attached map (page 11). This information was obtained from the South African Weather Service. For information purposes a graph depicting provincial rainfall for the current hydrological year is attached (page 12).

The National dam storage graph (page 13) has been attached to the report for additional information. The dam storage graphs of the two WMAs (page 14-15), indicates the current situation clearly. This information was obtained from Mr Malose Ngoepe from Water Resources Planning, National Office.

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)

The Mokolo Dam (A4R001) was used as no other dam exists in the A4 hydrological monitoring network. The dam is at a storage level of 100.2% ($145.7 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$) and 2.6% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 3.8 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year. See attached graph!

4.2 A5 Drainage Area (Lephalala River)

Two small dams exists 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 100.3% ($43.9 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$) and 0.6% higher than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 0.24 million cubic meters more than the corresponding period last year. See attached graph!

Glen Alpine Dam is at a storage level of 100.7% ($19.0 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$) and 2.5% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 0.5 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year.

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!

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 82.7% ($42.4 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$) and 19.9% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 10.2 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year. See attached graph!

Luphephe and Nwanedzi Dams are at storage levels of 65.4% and 59.4% respectively. Their combined storage is at $12.2 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$. The combined storage for the corresponding period the previous year was $19.23 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$. (100.5% of storage volume) See attached graphs!

Mutshedzi Dam, is at a storage level of 100% ($2.0 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$) and the same as the previous year.

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 90.7% ($25.6 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$) and 9.2% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 2.6 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year. See attached graph!

Vondo Dam is at a storage level of 94.7% ($28.8 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$) and 6.6% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 2.0 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year. See attached graph!

Nandoni Dam is at a storage level of 98.8% ($164.1 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$) and 5% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 8.3 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 97.1% ($67.1 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$) and 3.5% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 2.4 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year. See attached graph!

Magoebaskloof Dam is at a storage level of 100.5% ($4.9 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$) and 0.4% lower than the previous year. See attached graph!

Tzaneen Dam is at a storage level of 76.6% ($119.9 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$) and 24.7% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 39.7 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year. See attached graph!

Middle-Letaba Dam is at a storage level of 41.4% ($71.3 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$) and 16.6% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 28.4 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year. See attached graph!

The Nsami Dam is at a storage level of 63.7% ($13.9 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$) and 24.5% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 5.3 million cubic meters less than the corresponding period last year.

The Modjadji Dam is at a storage level of 65.1% ($4.67 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$) and 35.8% lower than the previous year, which means that the storage volume is 2.6 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 92.5% ($26.1 \times 10^6\text{m}^3$) and 8.6% lower than the previous year. See attached graph!

Loskop Dam is at a storage level of 95.6% ($345.7 \times 10^6\text{m}^3$) and 6.1% lower than the previous 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 95.1% ($176.0 \times 10^6\text{m}^3$) and 8.8% lower than the previous 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 53.5% ($7.2 \times 10^6\text{m}^3$) and 46.7% lower than the previous year. See attached graph!

Blyde Dam is at a storage level of 100.3% ($54.6 \times 10^6\text{m}^3$) and 0.7% lower than the previous year. See attached graph!

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 103% ($5.8 \times 10^6\text{m}^3$) and 1.3% higher than the previous year. See attached graph!

Tours Dam is at a storage level of 82.5% ($5.0 \times 10^6\text{m}^3$) and 17.5% lower than the previous year. See attached graph!

7. INKOMATI 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 100.7% ($160.0 \times 10^6\text{m}^3$) and 0.5% lower as the previous 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 100.1% ($123.7 \times 10^6\text{m}^3$) and 0.4% lower as the previous year. See attached graph!

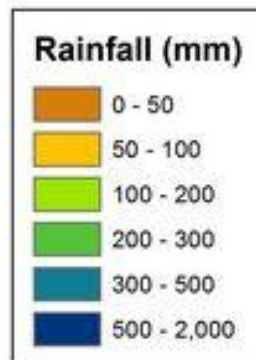
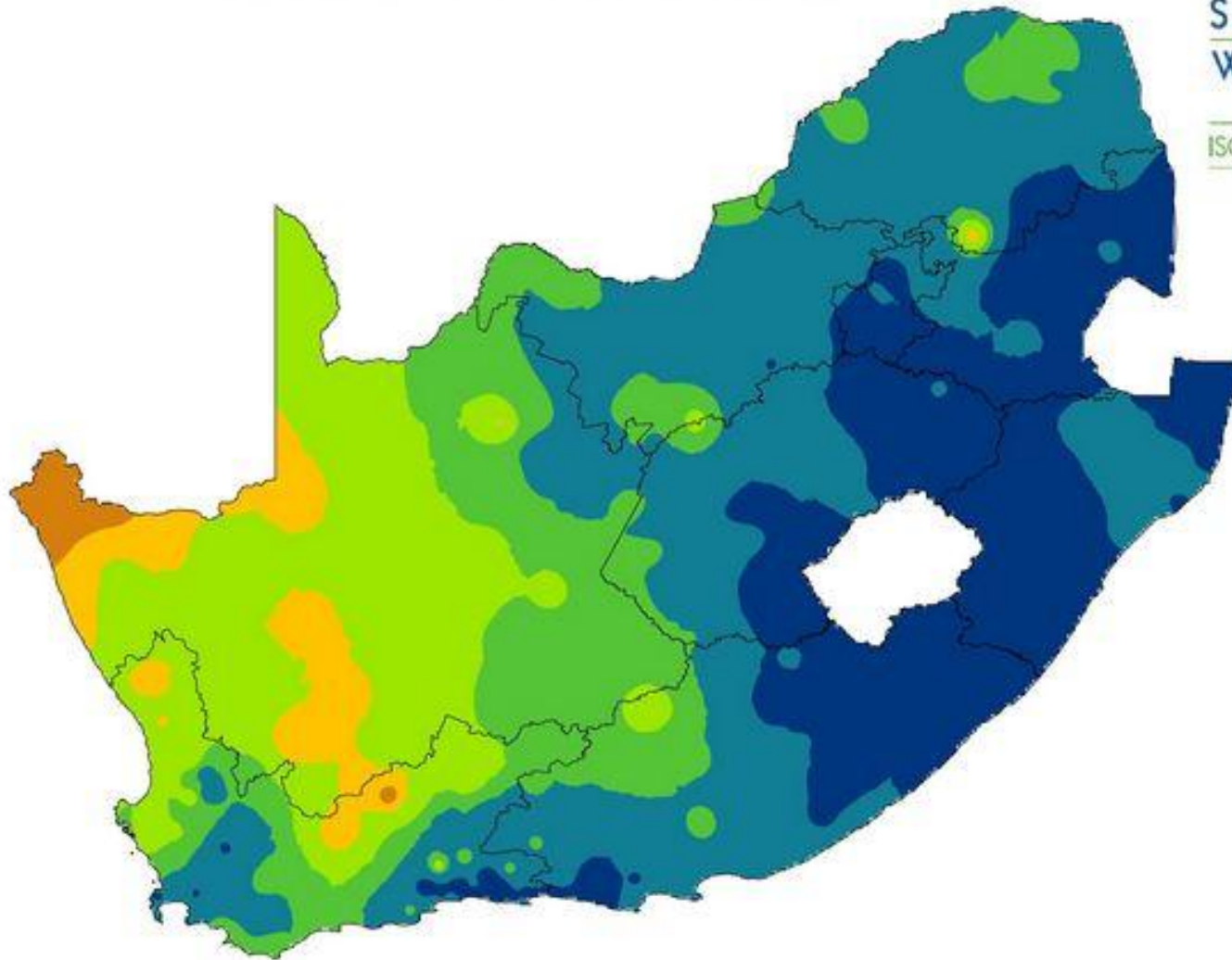
Rainfall (mm) for season July 2014 - March 2015

(Based on preliminary data, The number of stations vary depending on the data availability)

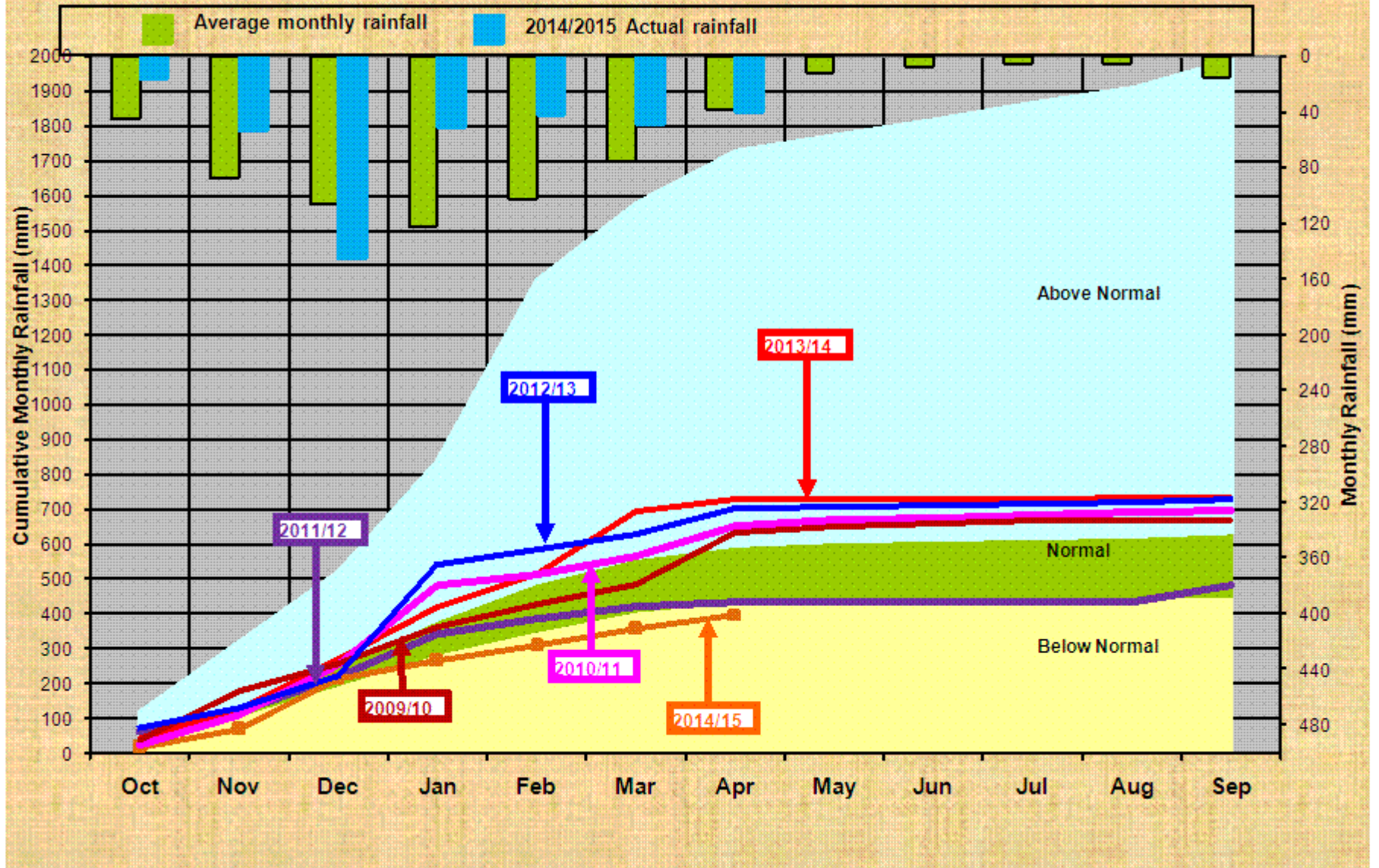


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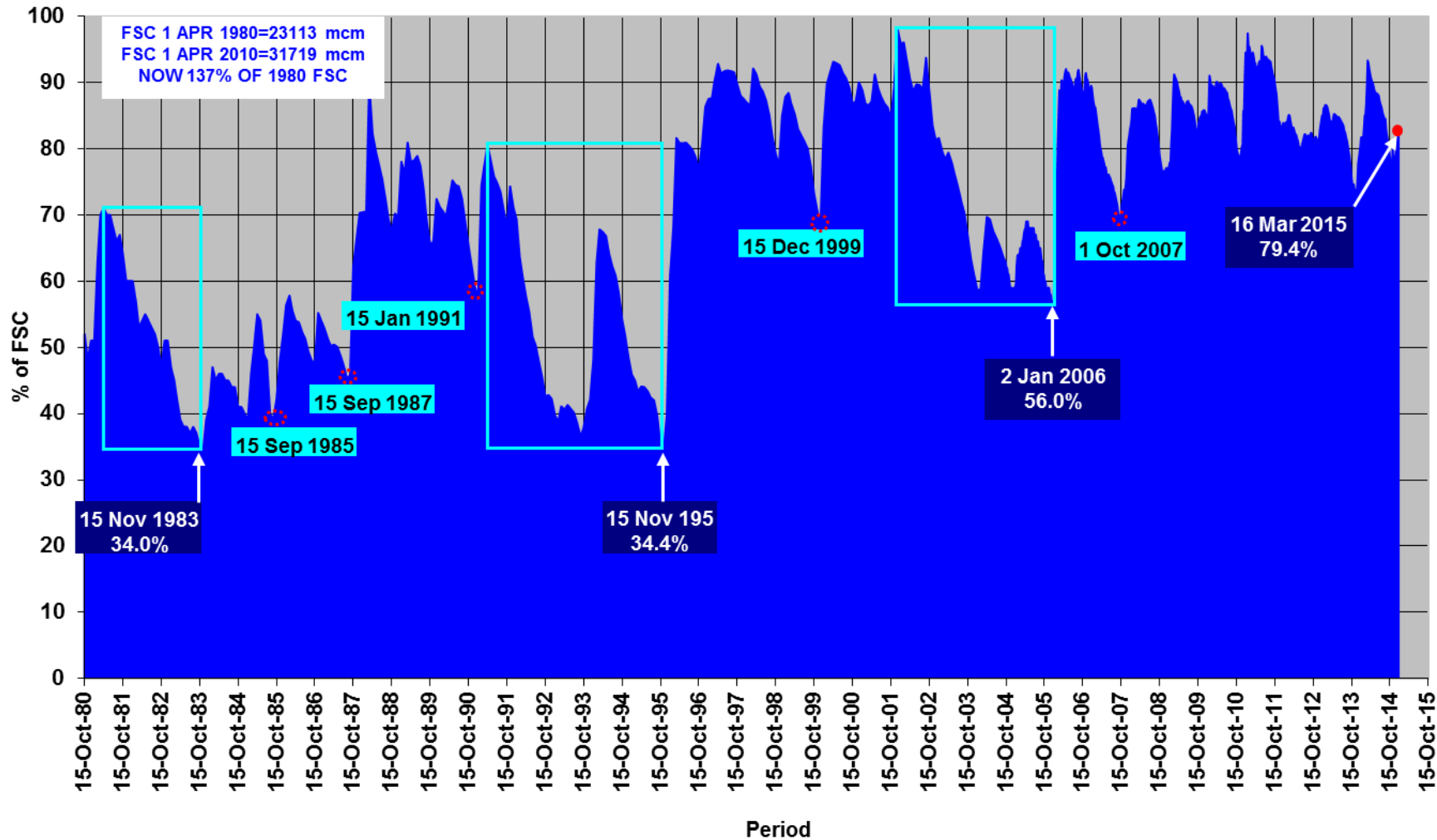


LIMPOPO

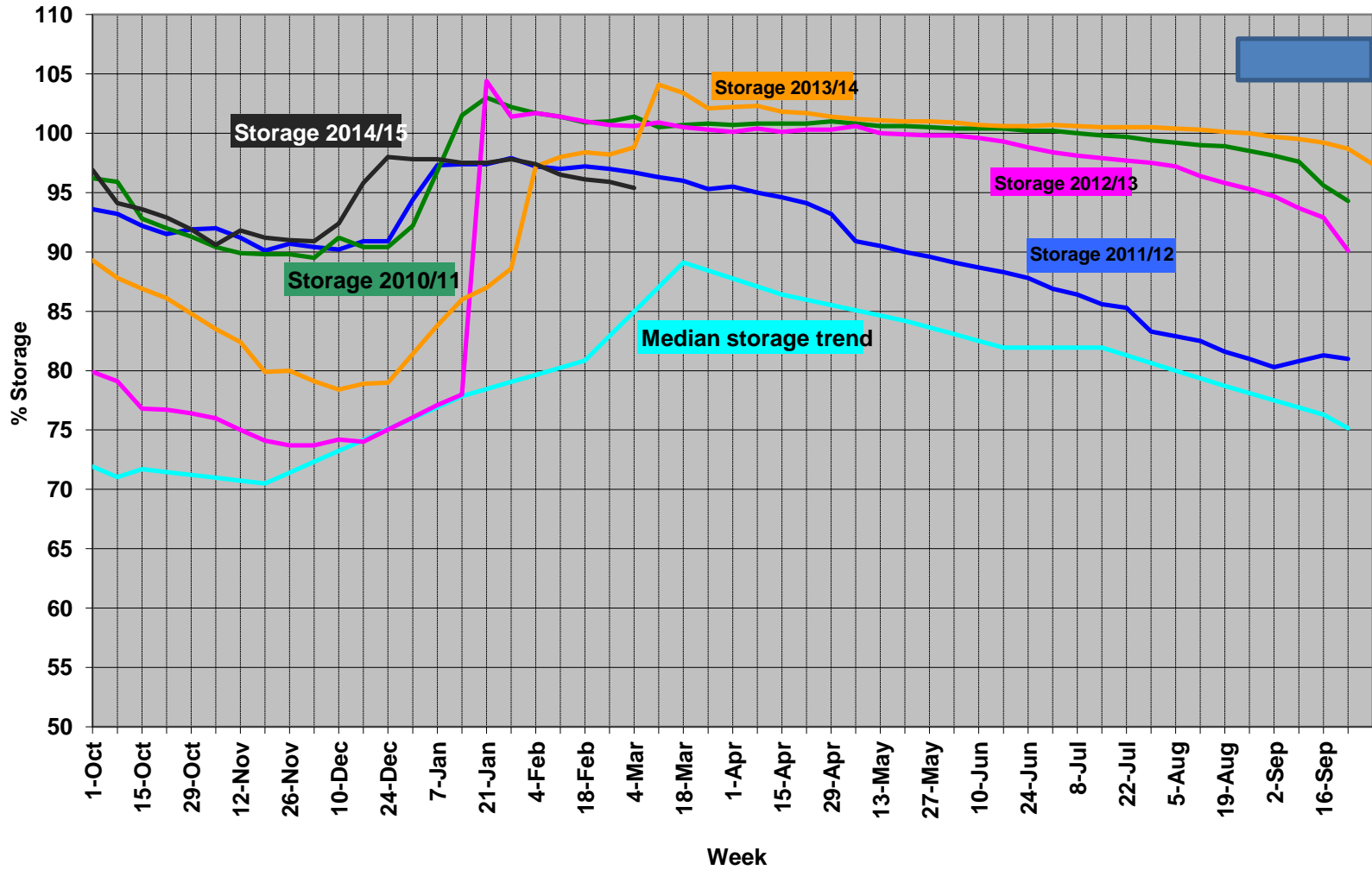


National Dams: Water Storage: The Storage for 16 March 2015 since August 1981 (Weekly values since 4/10/04)

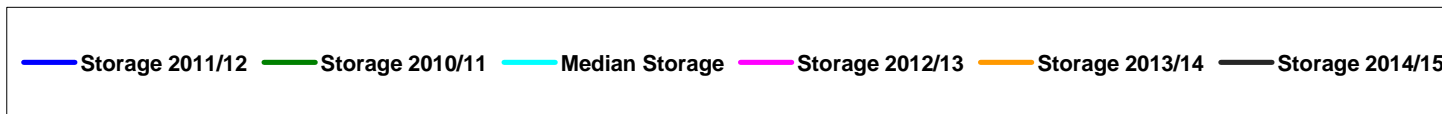
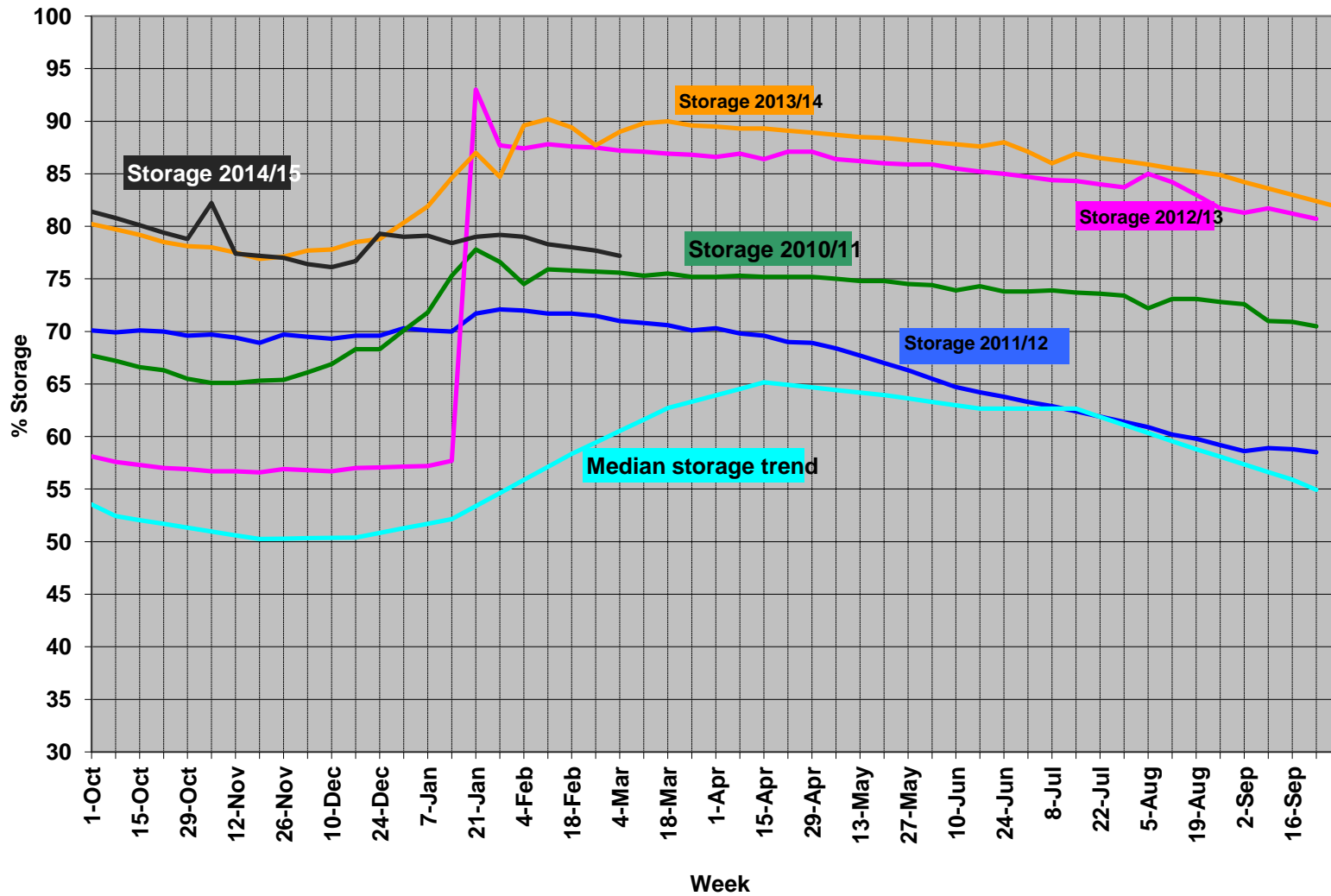
16 March 2015: STORAGE = 79.4% FSC; Median for March since 1981 = 75.8% FSC



LIMPOPO: WMA 1: STORAGE FOR CORRESPONDING WEEKS (%FSC) Weekly: Oct to Sep



Luvuvhu-Letaba: WMA 2: STORAGE FOR CORRESPONDING WEEKS (%FSC)
 Weekly: Oct to Sep



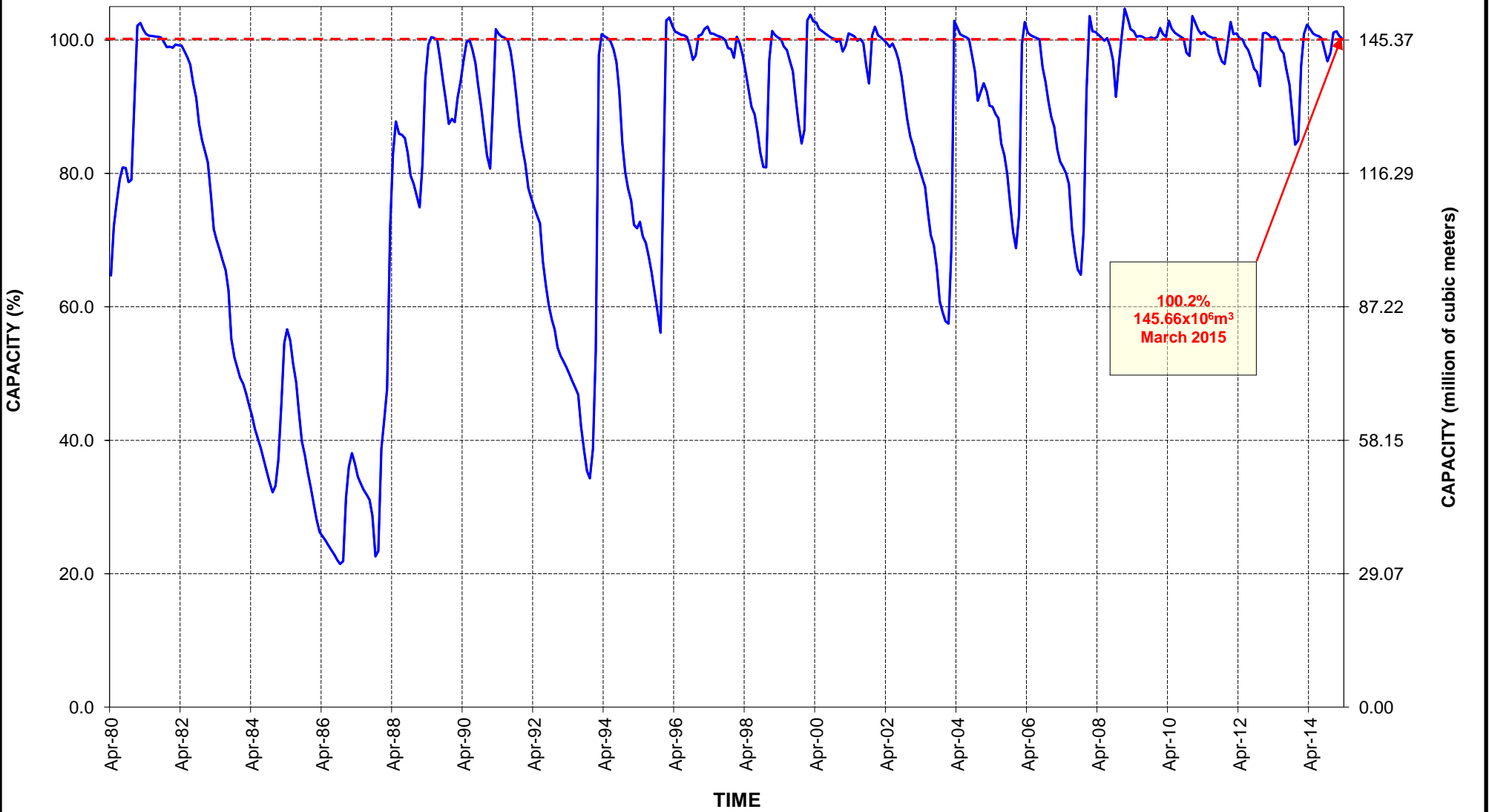
Summary WMA	Full Supply Capacity 10 ⁶ M ³	Water in Storage 10 ⁶ M ³	Last Year %Full	Last Week %Full	This Week 30/03/2015 %Full
1 Limpopo	280.4	265.2	102.2	94.9	94.6
2 Luvubu/Letaba	652.5	499.1	89.5	77.0	76.5
3 Crocodile (West) Marico	807.3	546.8	81.2	66.0	67.7
4 Olifants	1422.6	1256.8	93.1	89.1	88.3
5 Inkomati	1049.5	1004.9	100.9	96.2	95.8
6 Usutu/Mhlatuze	3276.2	2155.4	87.4	65.9	65.8
7 Thukela	1254.5	1185.0	98.7	95.7	94.5
8 Upper Vaal	5659.2	5094.2	101.1	89.9	90.0
9 Middle Vaal	1671.6	948.8	90.3	56.2	56.8
10 Lower Vaal	108.5	91.8	92.0	81.1	84.6
11 Mvoti/Umzimkulu	801.9	654.7	101.2	81.6	81.6
12 Mzimvubu/Keiskamma	1091.6	1021.1	99.2	93.6	93.5
13 Upper Orange	11428.3	9649.1	92.6	82.6	84.4
14 Lower Orange	36.1	39.9	112.2	106.8	110.6
15 Fish/Tsitsikamma	725.2	369.1	63.6	48.6	50.9
16 Gouritz	268.3	127.0	89.6	45.4	47.3
17 Olifants/Doorn	128.2	31.3	40.3	27.1	24.4
18 Breede	1041.0	529.6	65.6	52.5	50.9
19 Berg	416.5	244.2	73.7	60.1	58.6
GRAND TOTAL	32119.5	25713.7	92.1	79.4	80.1

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.

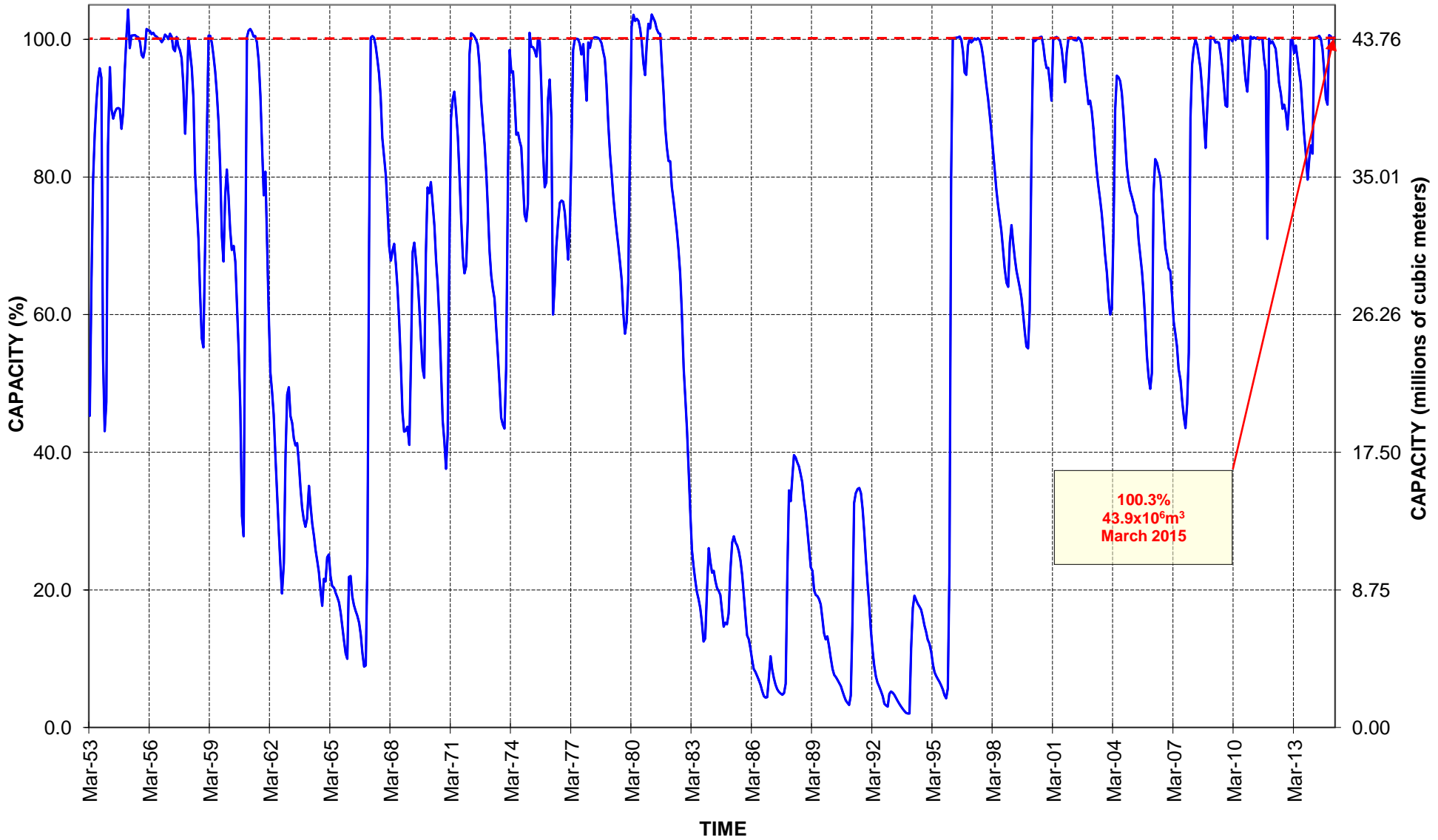
MOGOL RIVER AT MOKOLO DAM

FULL CAPACITY 145.37 *10^6m^3



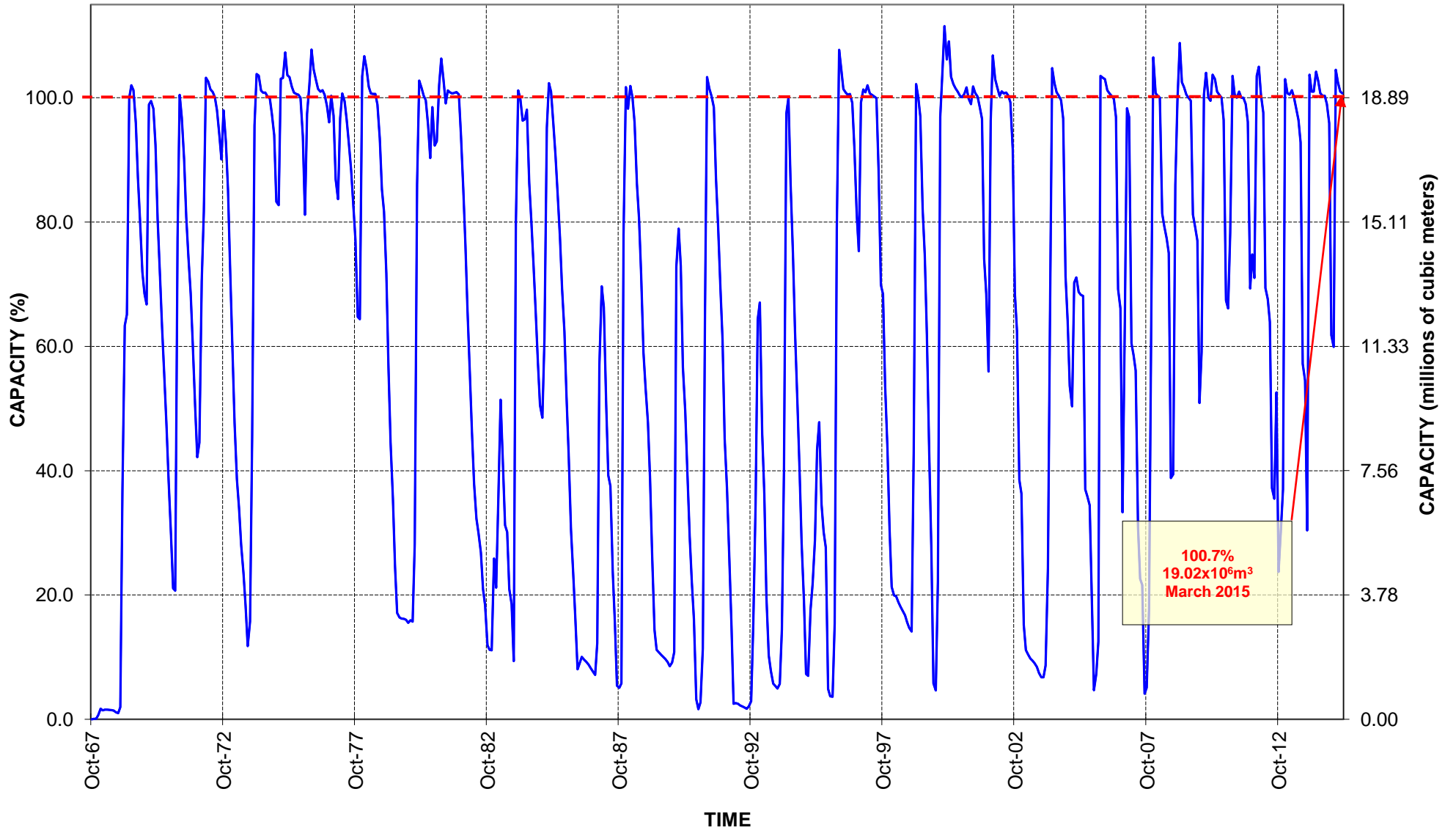
STERK RIVER AT DOORNDRAAI DAM

FULL CAPACITY 43.76 *10^6m^3



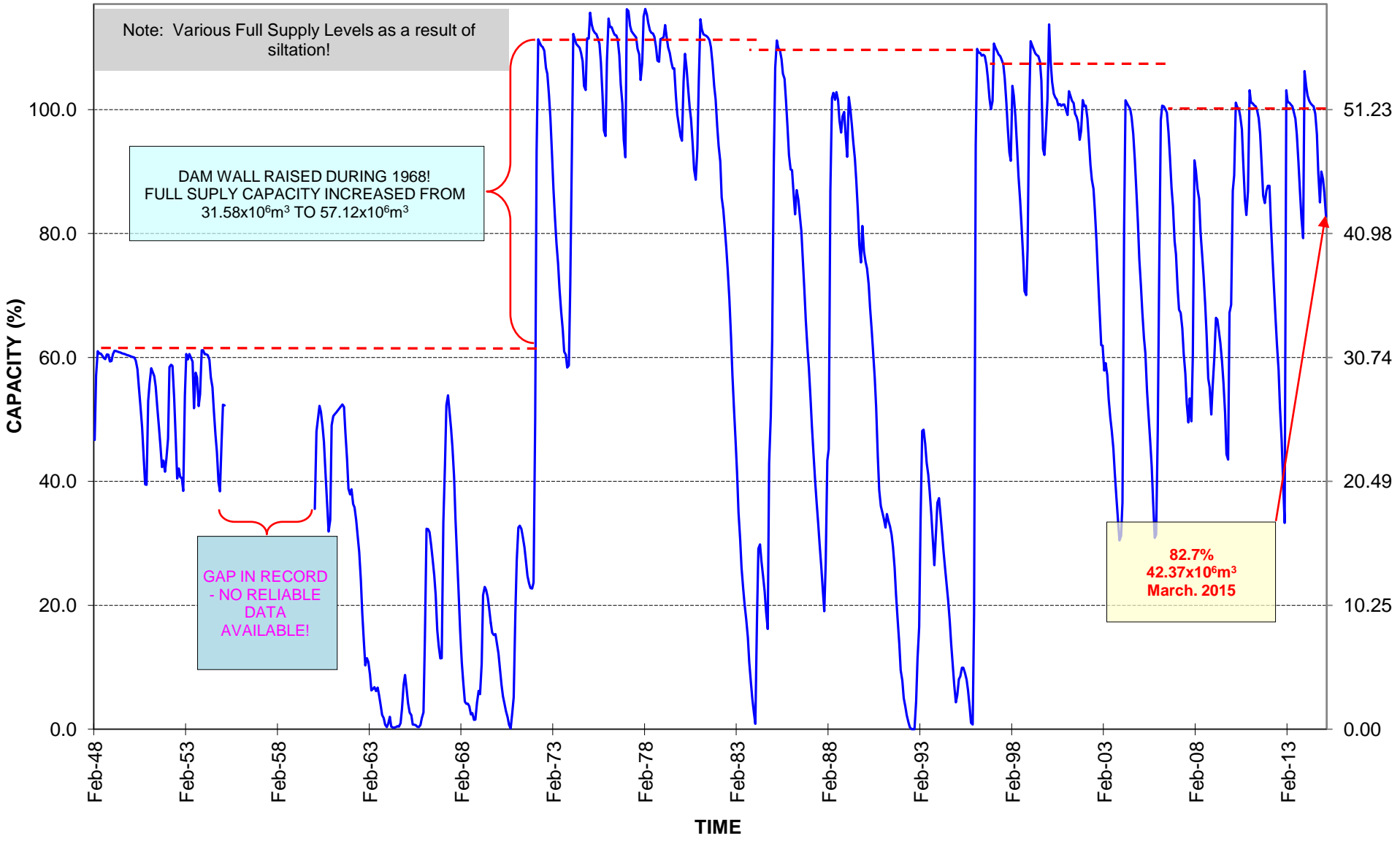
MOKGALAKWENA RIVER AT GLEN ALPINE DAM

FULL CAPACITY 18.89 *10^6m^3



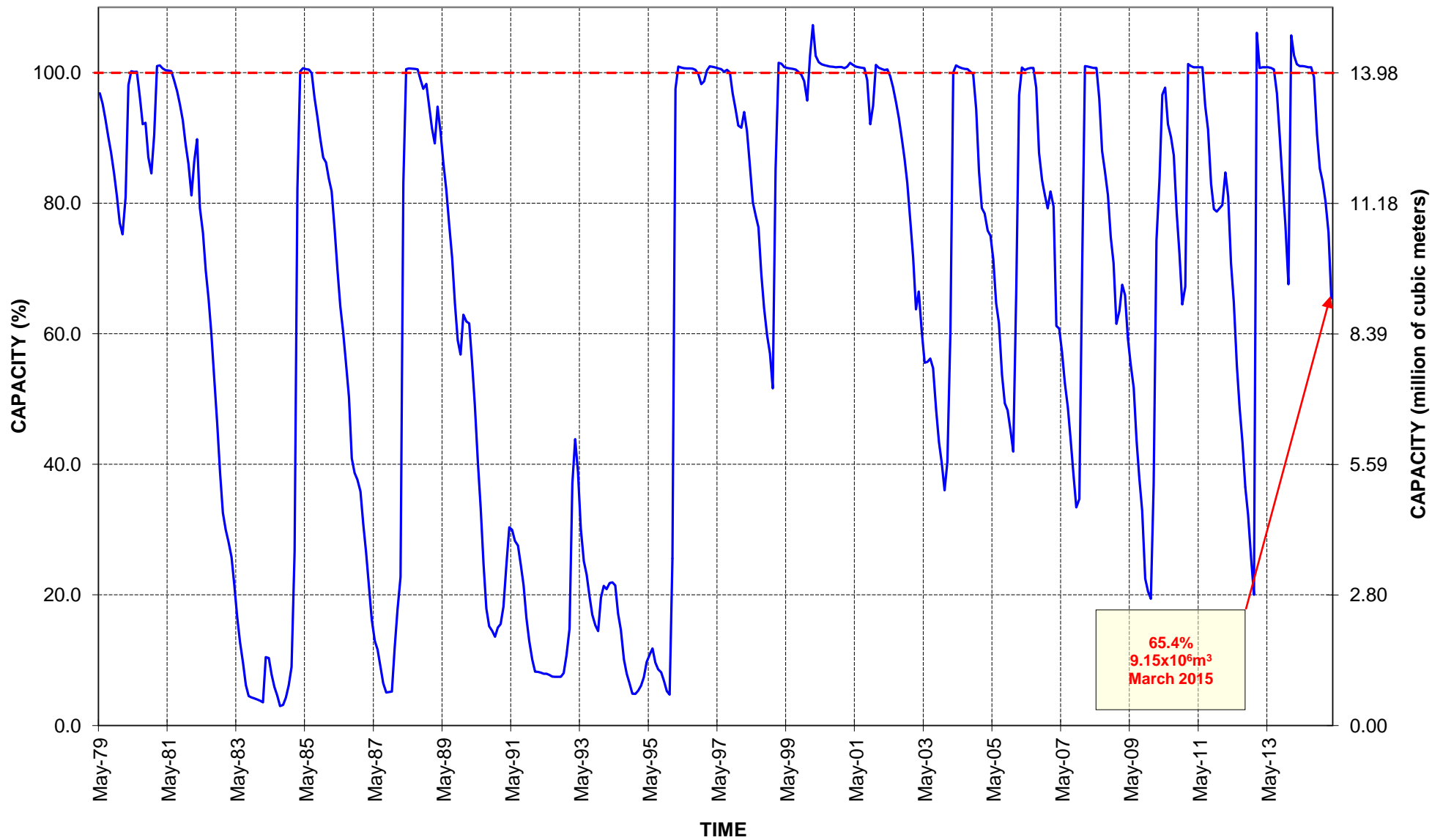
NZHELELE RIVER AT NZHELELE DAM

FULL CAPACITY 51.23 *10^6m^3



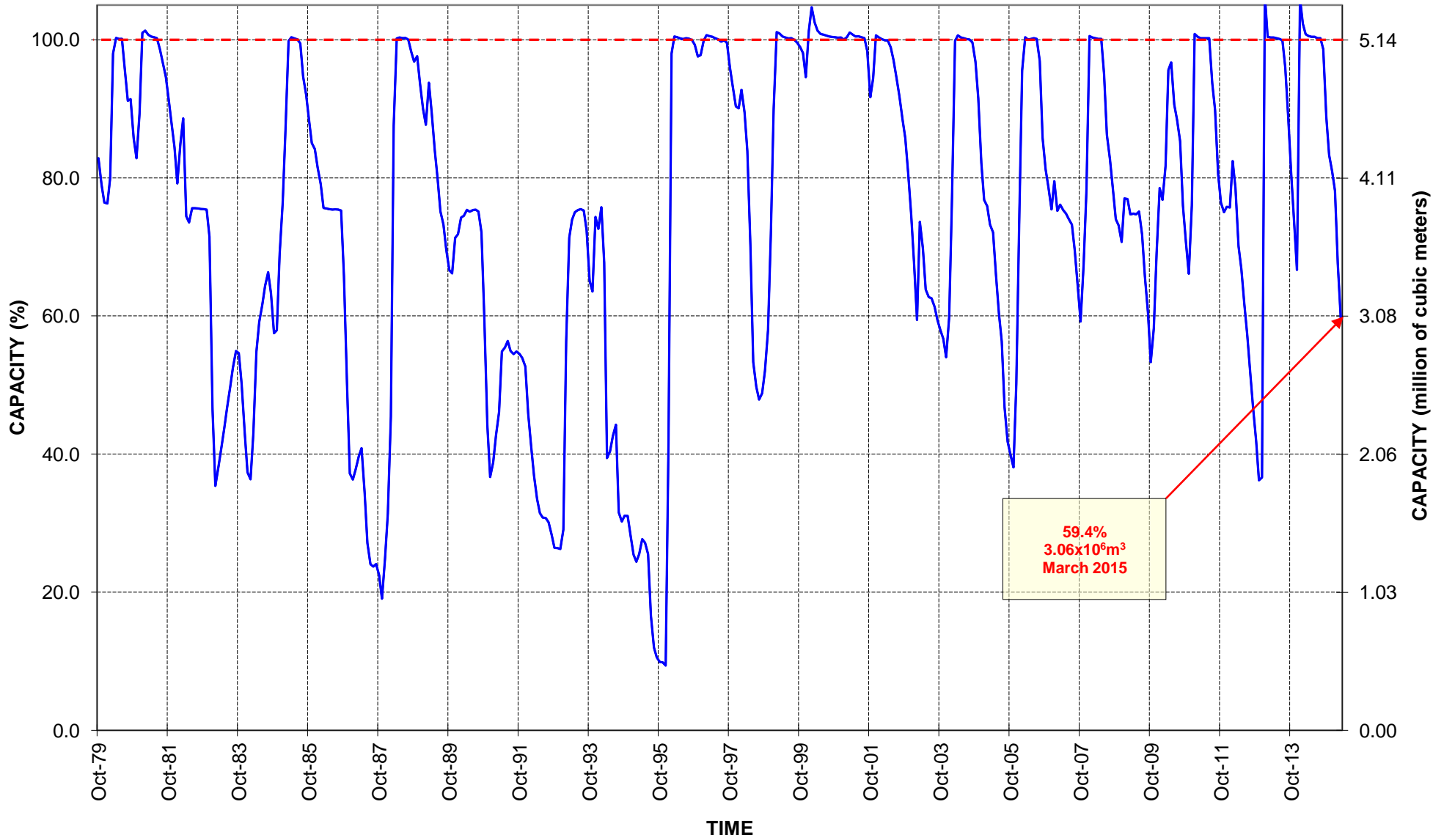
LUPHEPHE RIVER AT LUPHEPHE DAM

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



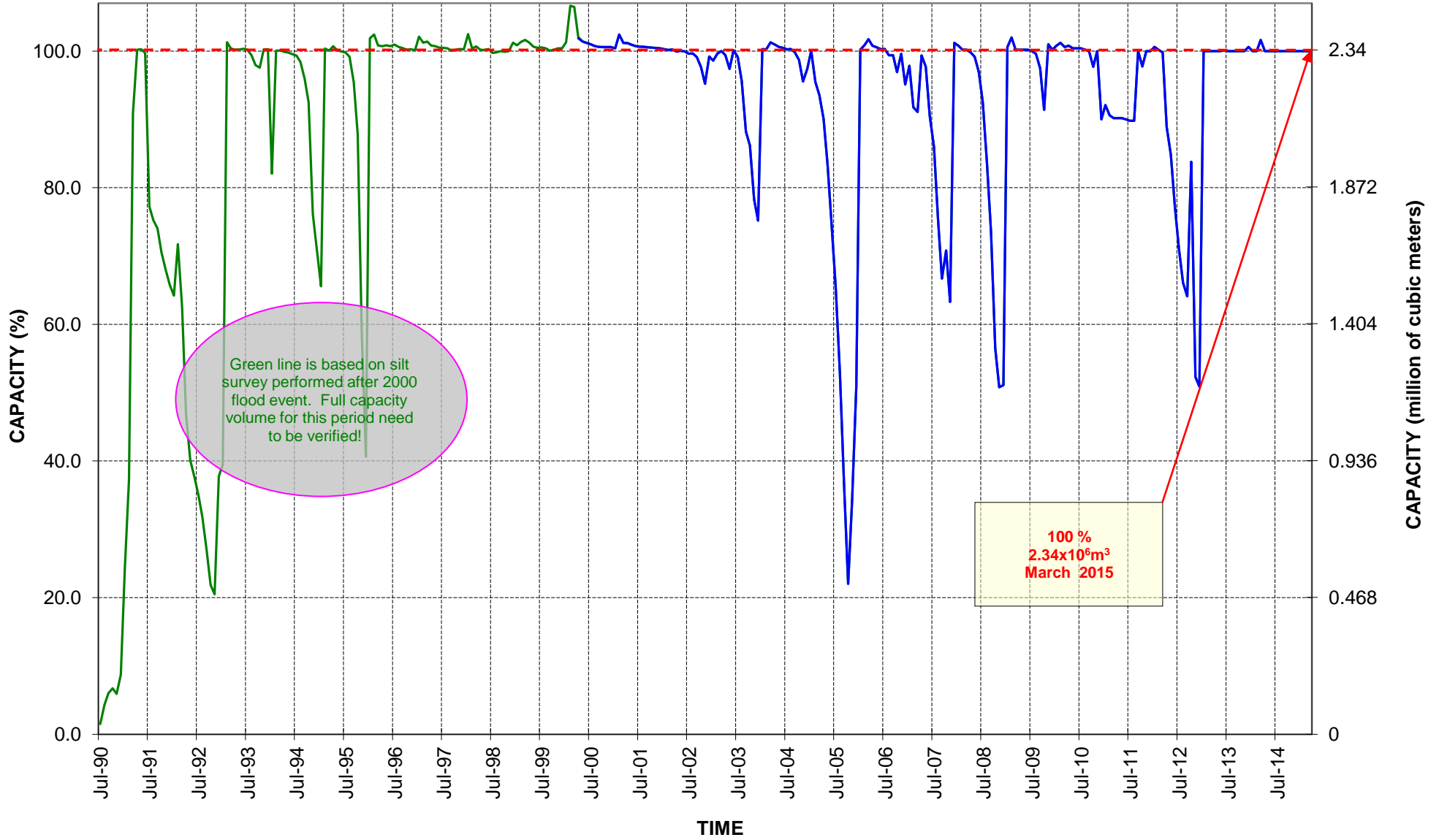
NWANEDZI RIVER AT NWANEDZI DAM

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



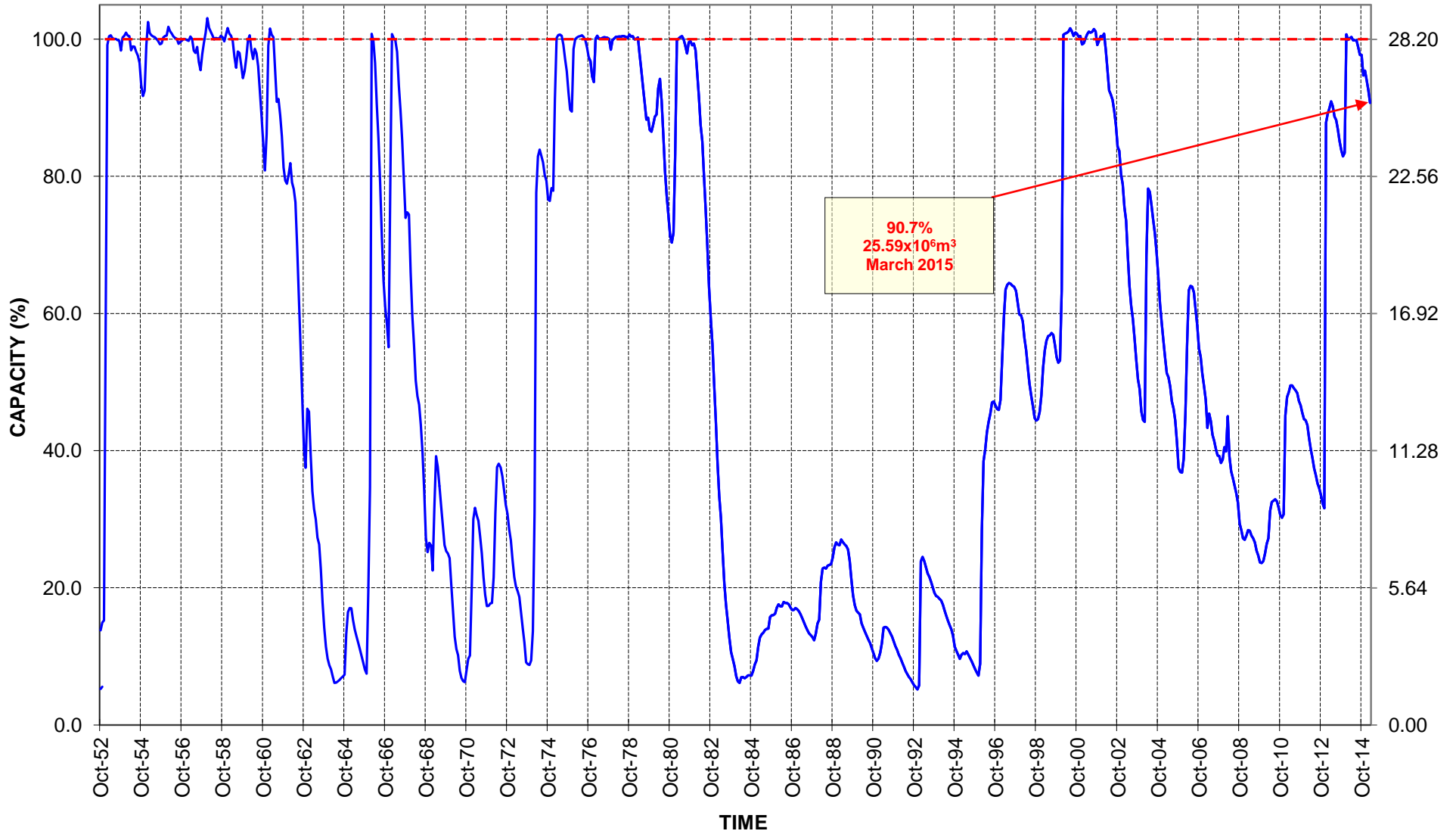
MUTSHEDZI RIVER AT MUTSHEDZI DAM

FULL CAPACITY $2.34 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$



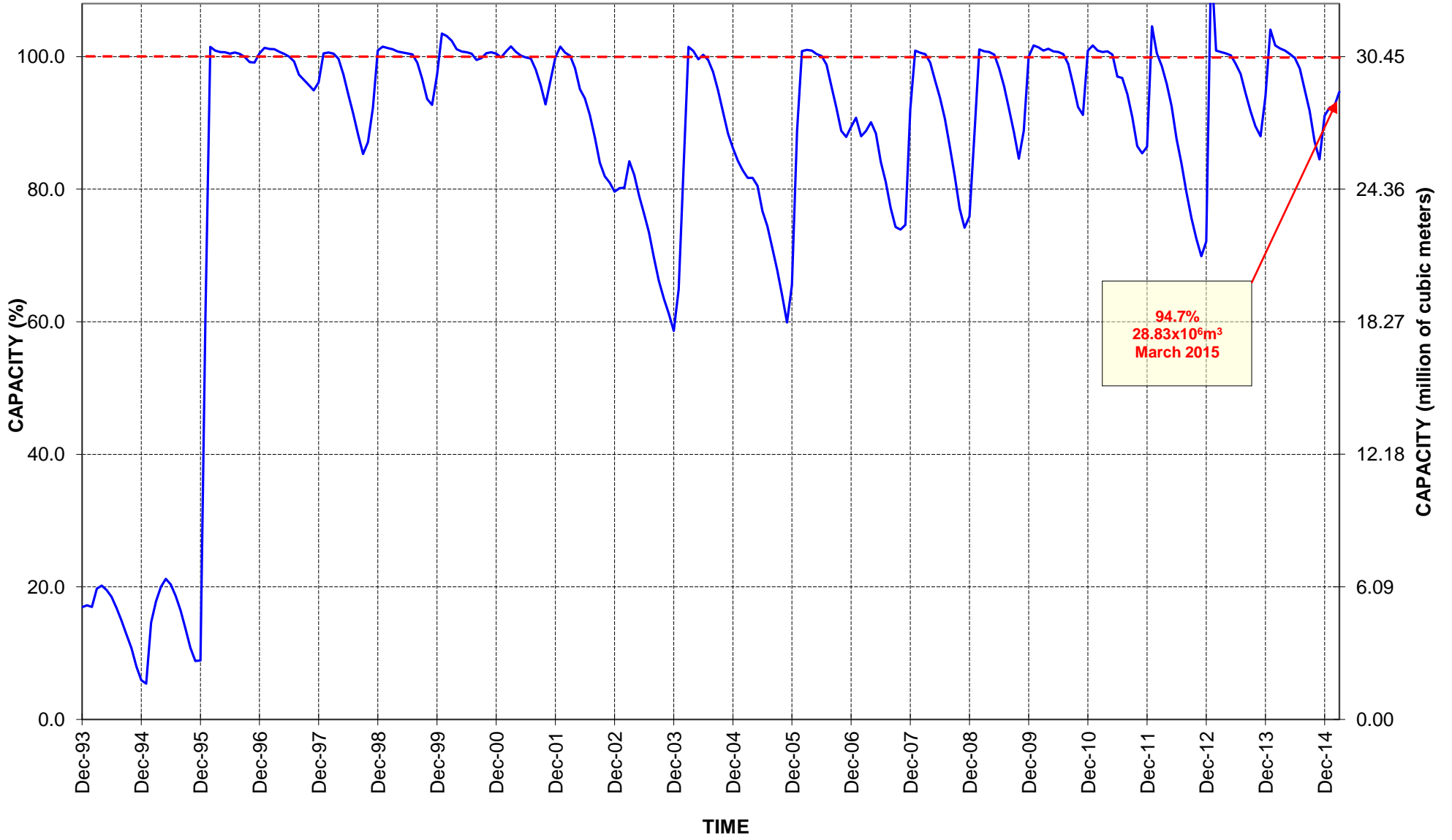
LUVUVHU RIVER AT ALBASINI DAM

FULL CAPACITY 28.21*10⁶m³



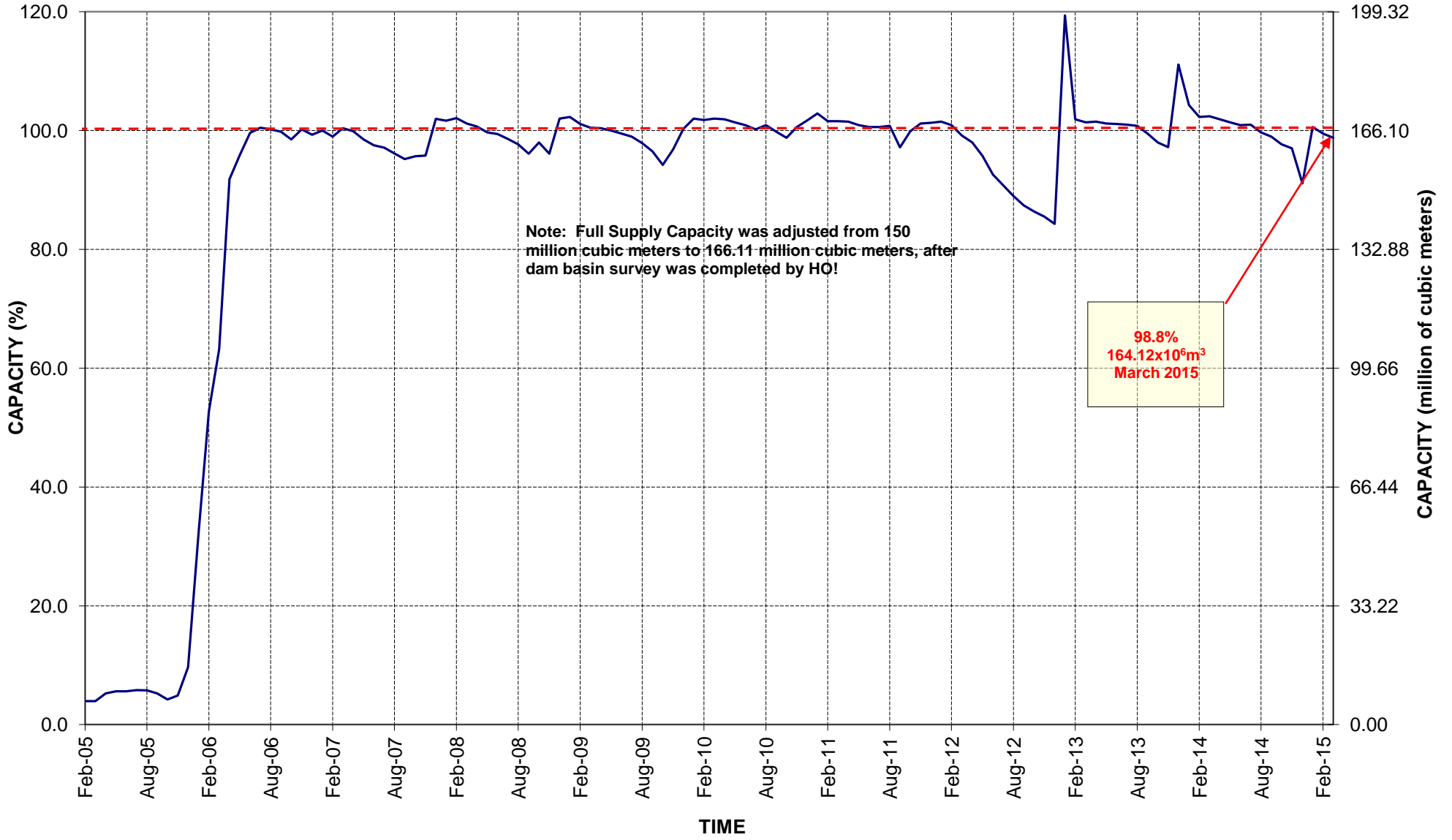
MUTSHINDUDI RIVER AT VONDO DAM

FULL CAPACITY $30.447 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$



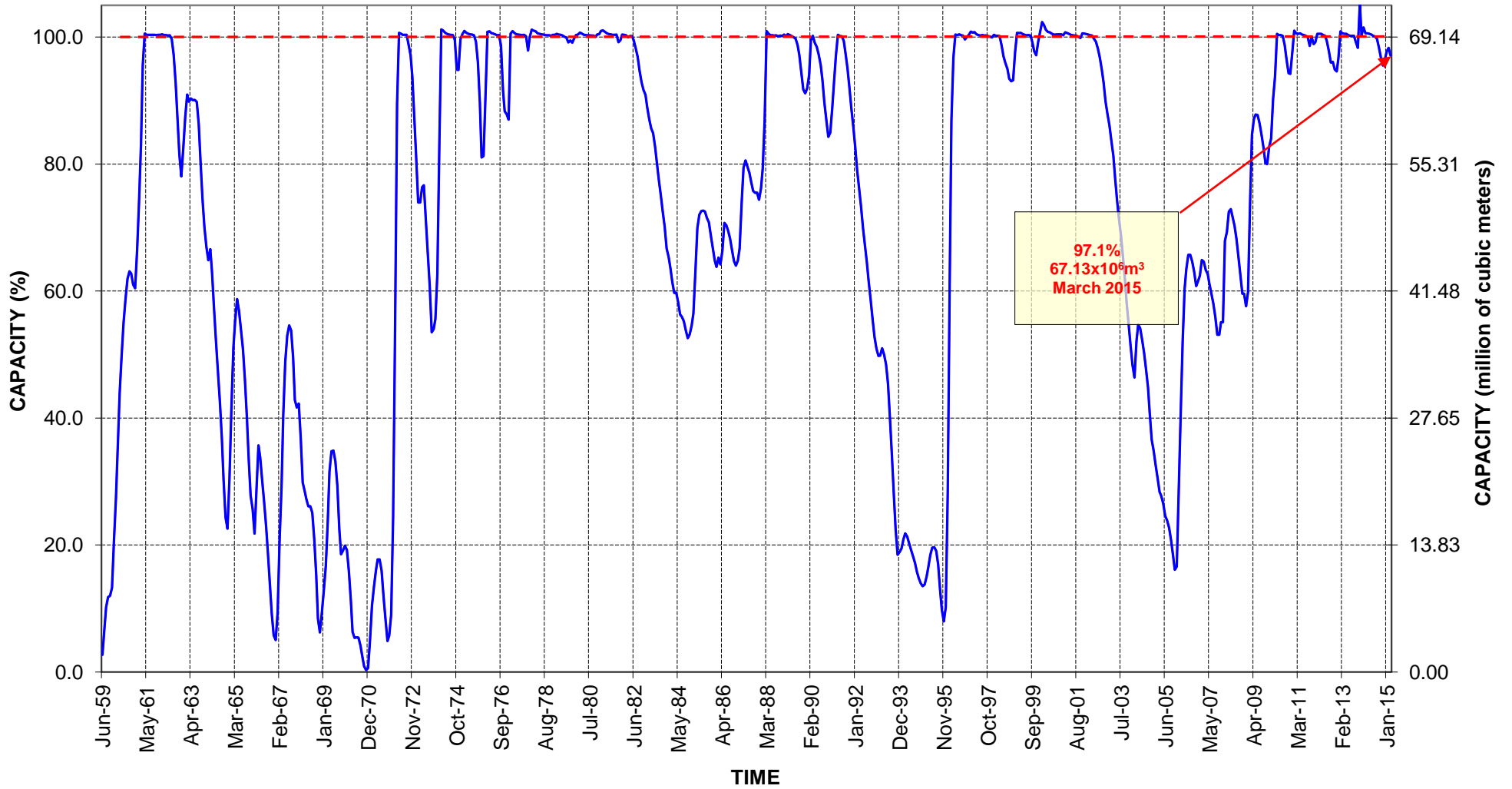
LUVUVHU RIVER AT NANDONI DAM

FULL CAPACITY $166.11 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$



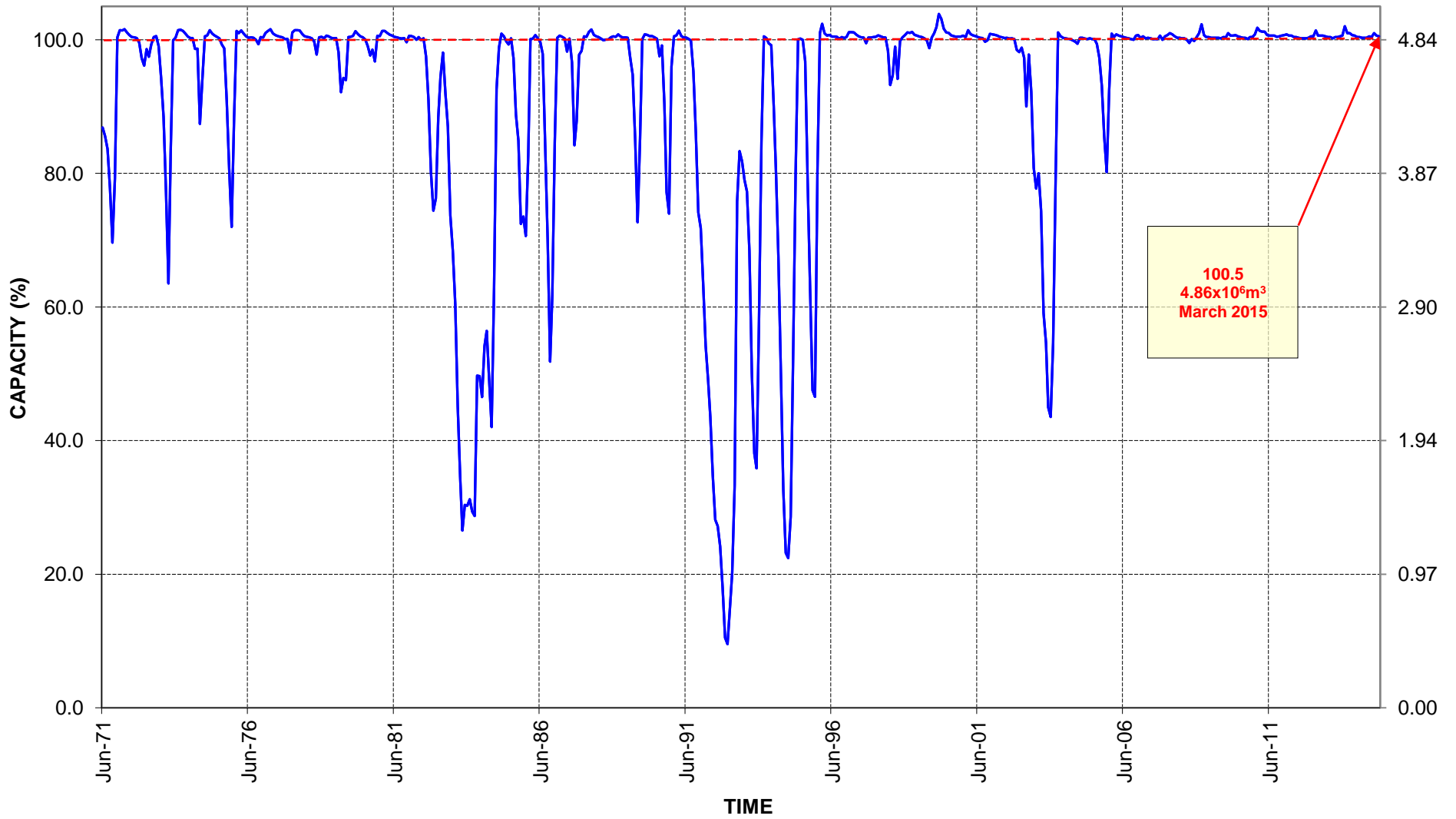
GREAT LETABA RIVER AT EBENEZER DAM

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



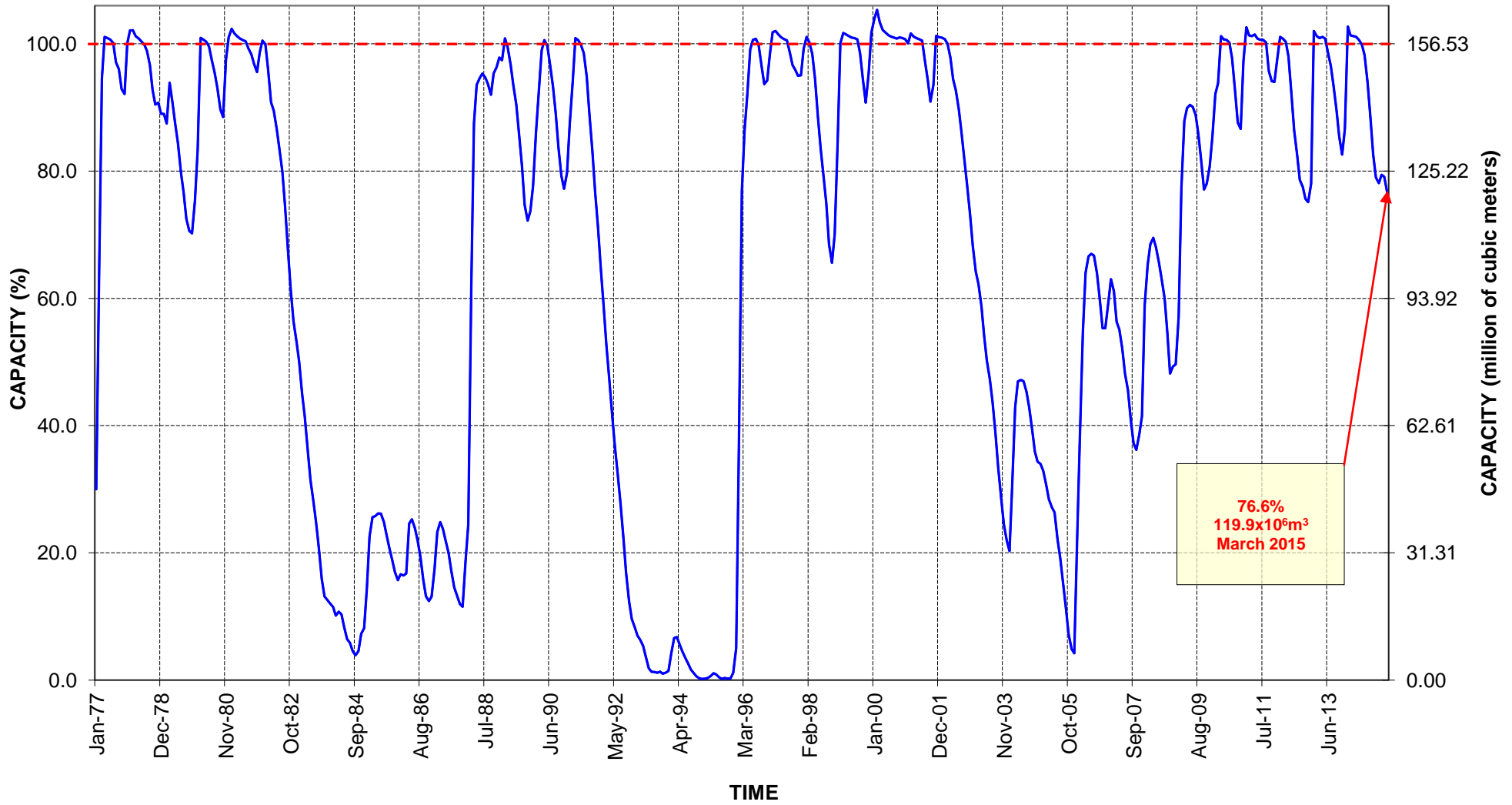
POLITSI RIVER AT MAGOEBASKLOOF DAM

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



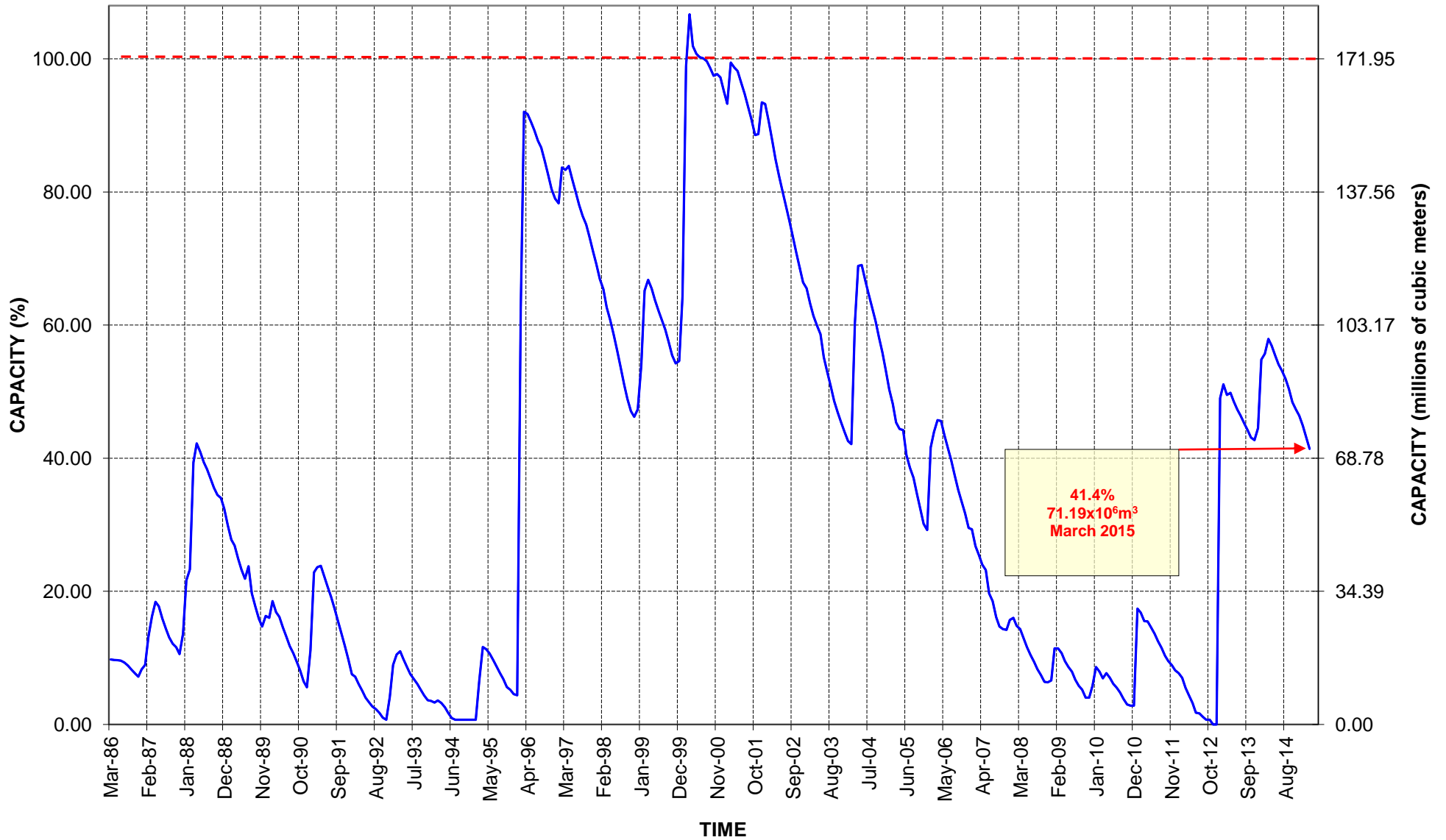
GREAT LETABA RIVER AT TZANEEN DAM

FULL CAPACITY $156.53 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$



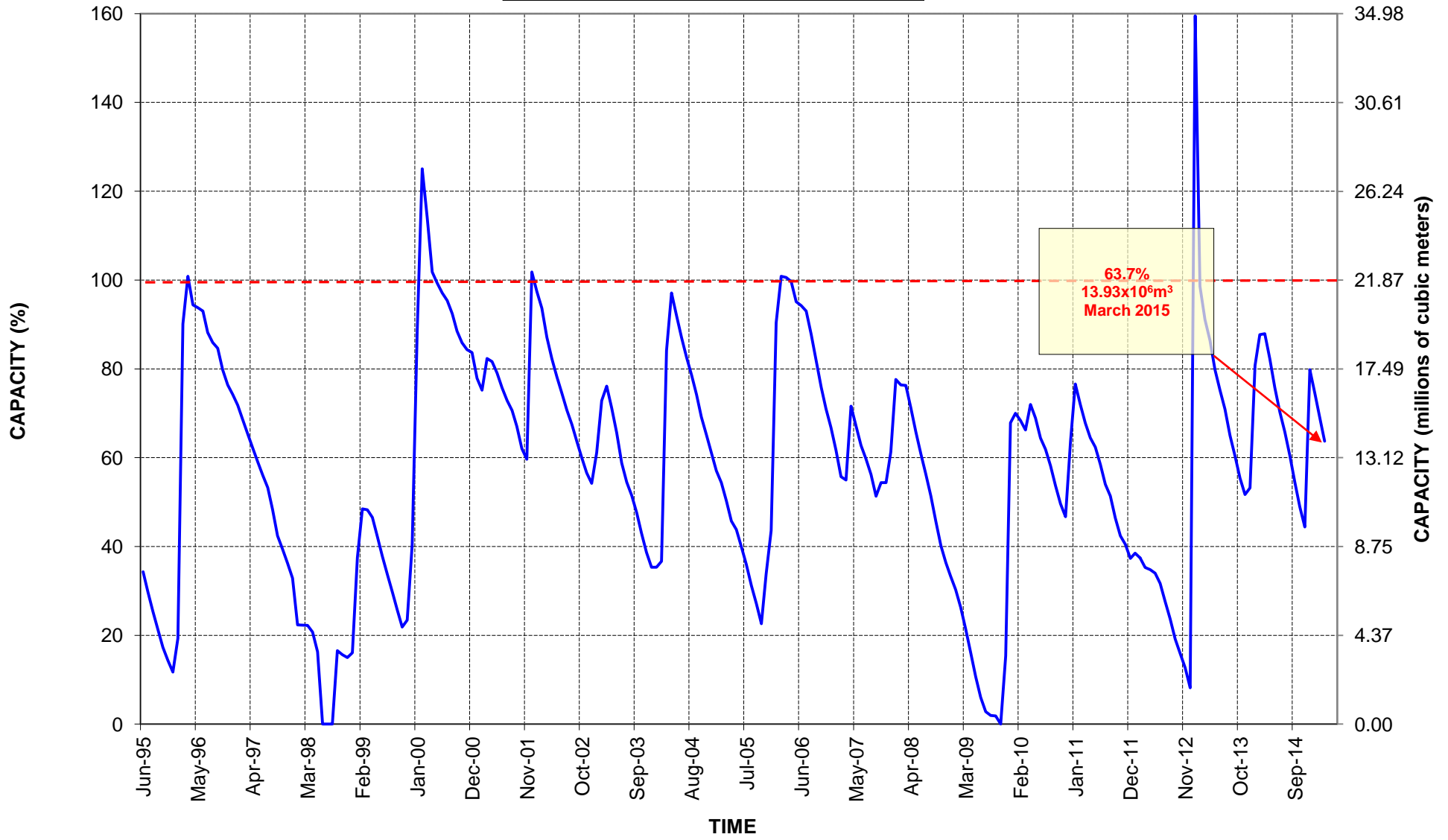
MIDDLE LETABA RIVER AT MIDDLE LETABA DAM

FULL CAPACITY 171.95 *10^6m^3



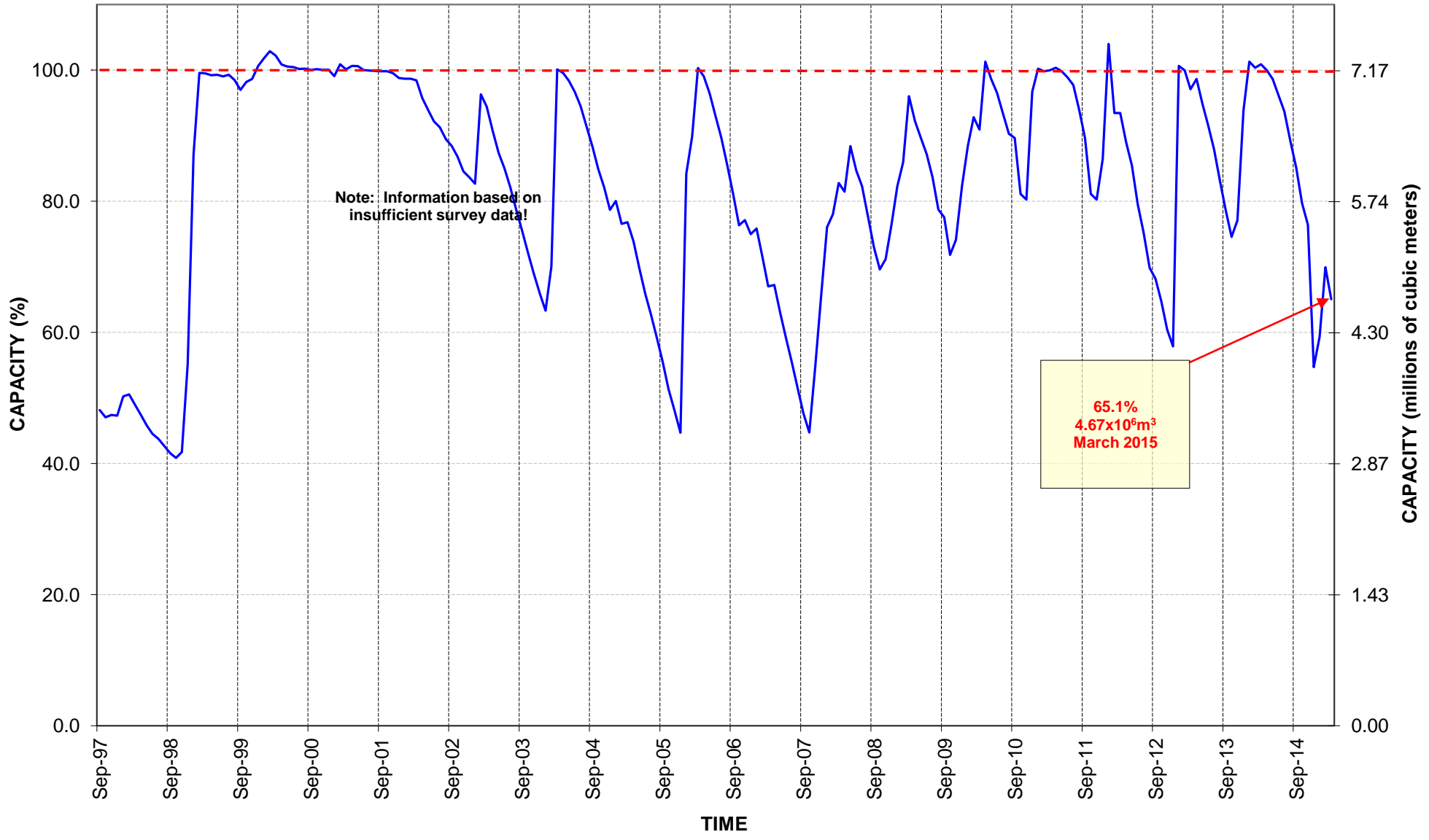
NSAMI DAM AT NSAMA RIVER

FULL CAPACITY $21.87 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$



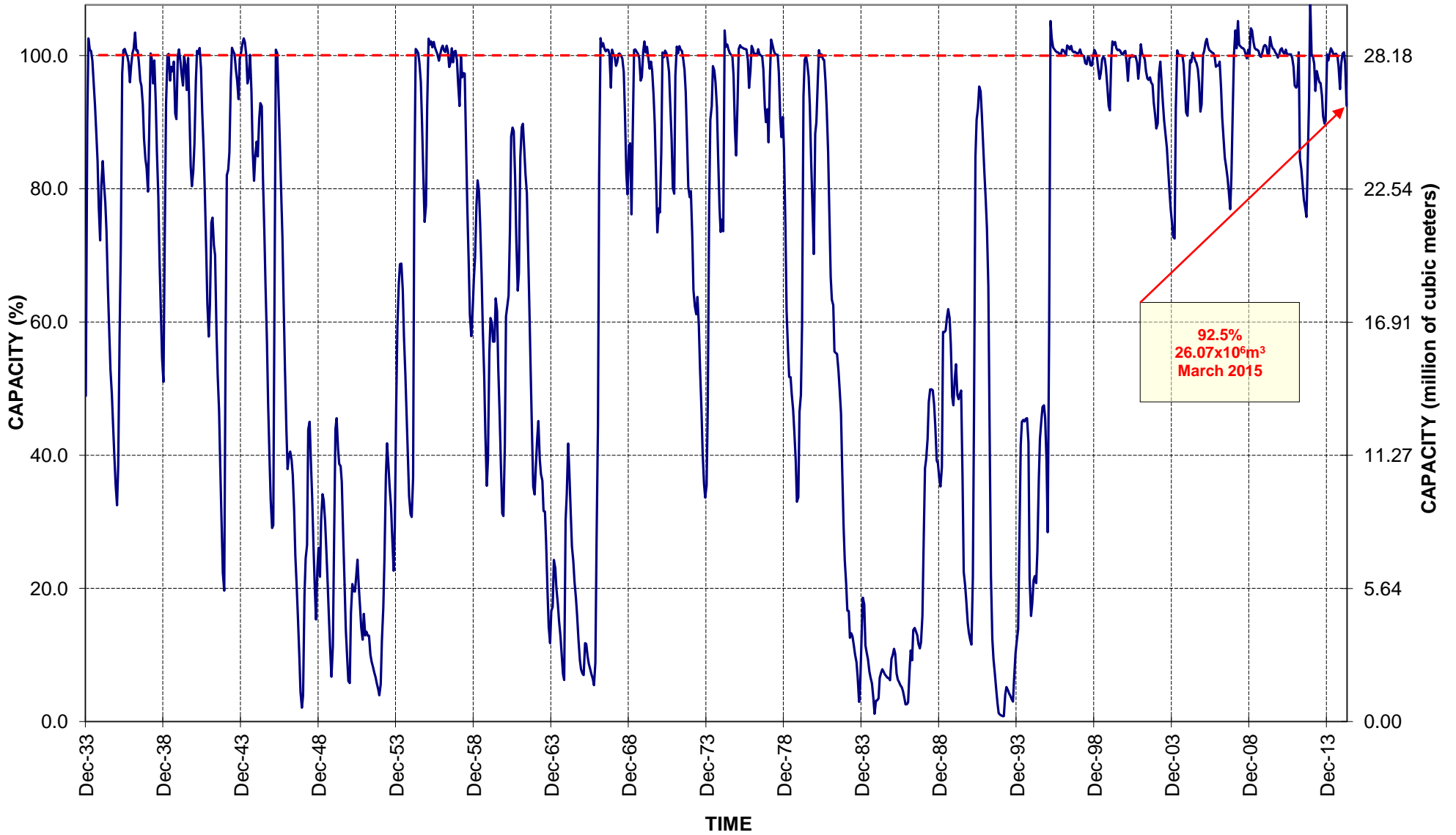
MOLOTOTSI RIVER AT MODJADJI DAM

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



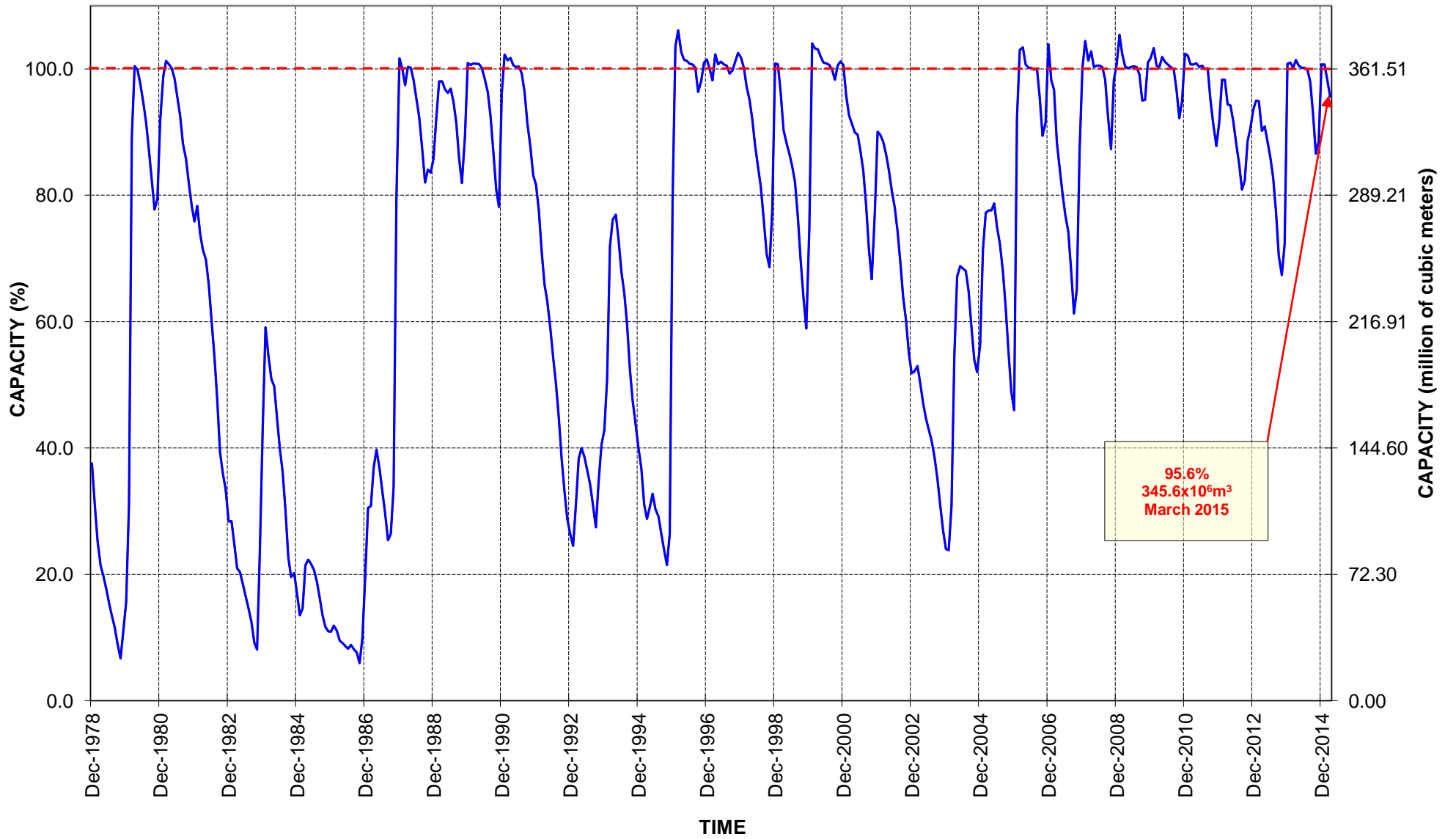
ELANDS RIVER AT RUST DE WINTER DAM

FULL CAPACITY 28.186*10⁶m³



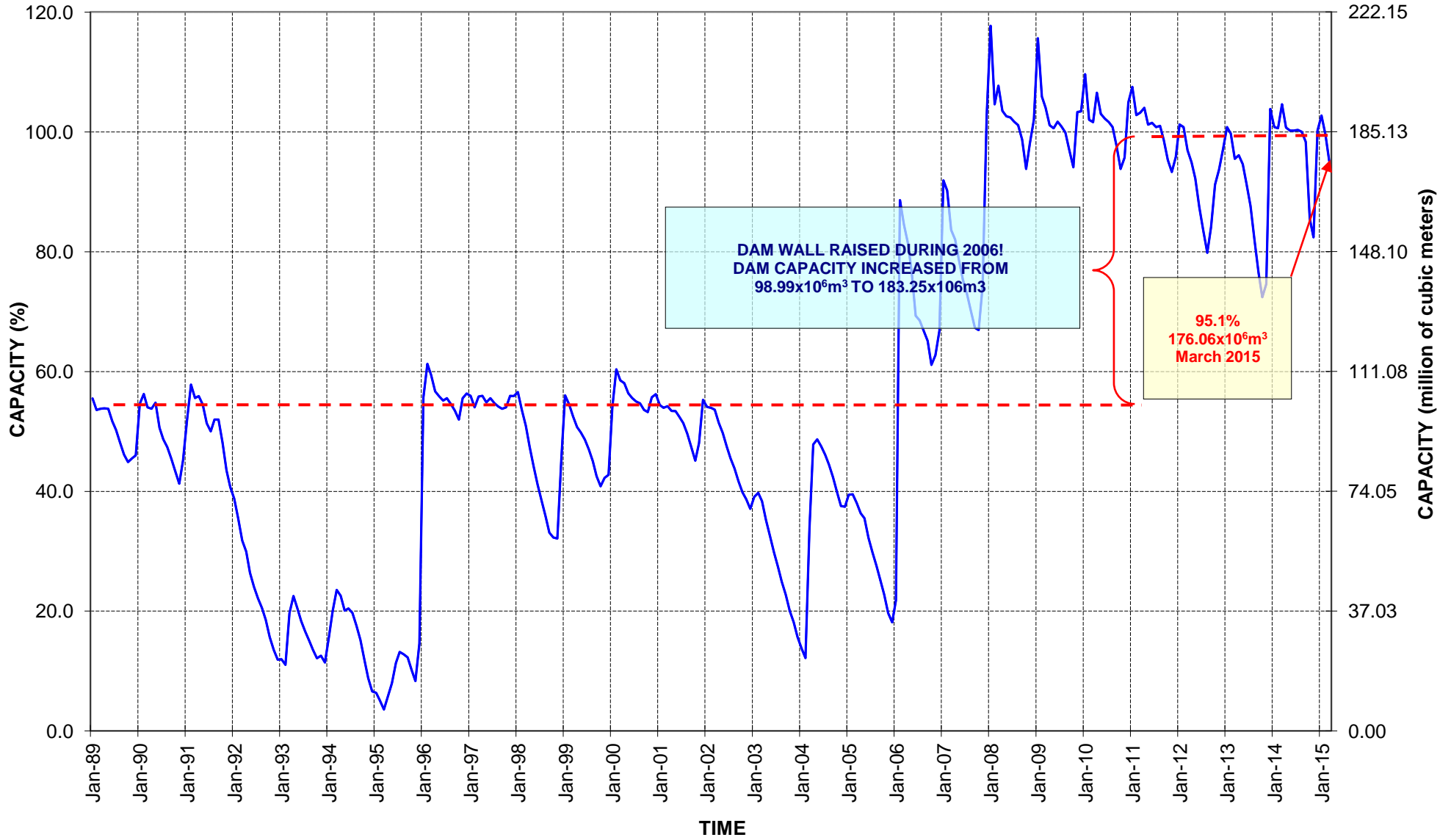
OLIFANTS RIVER AT LOSKOP DAM

FULL CAPACITY $361.51 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$



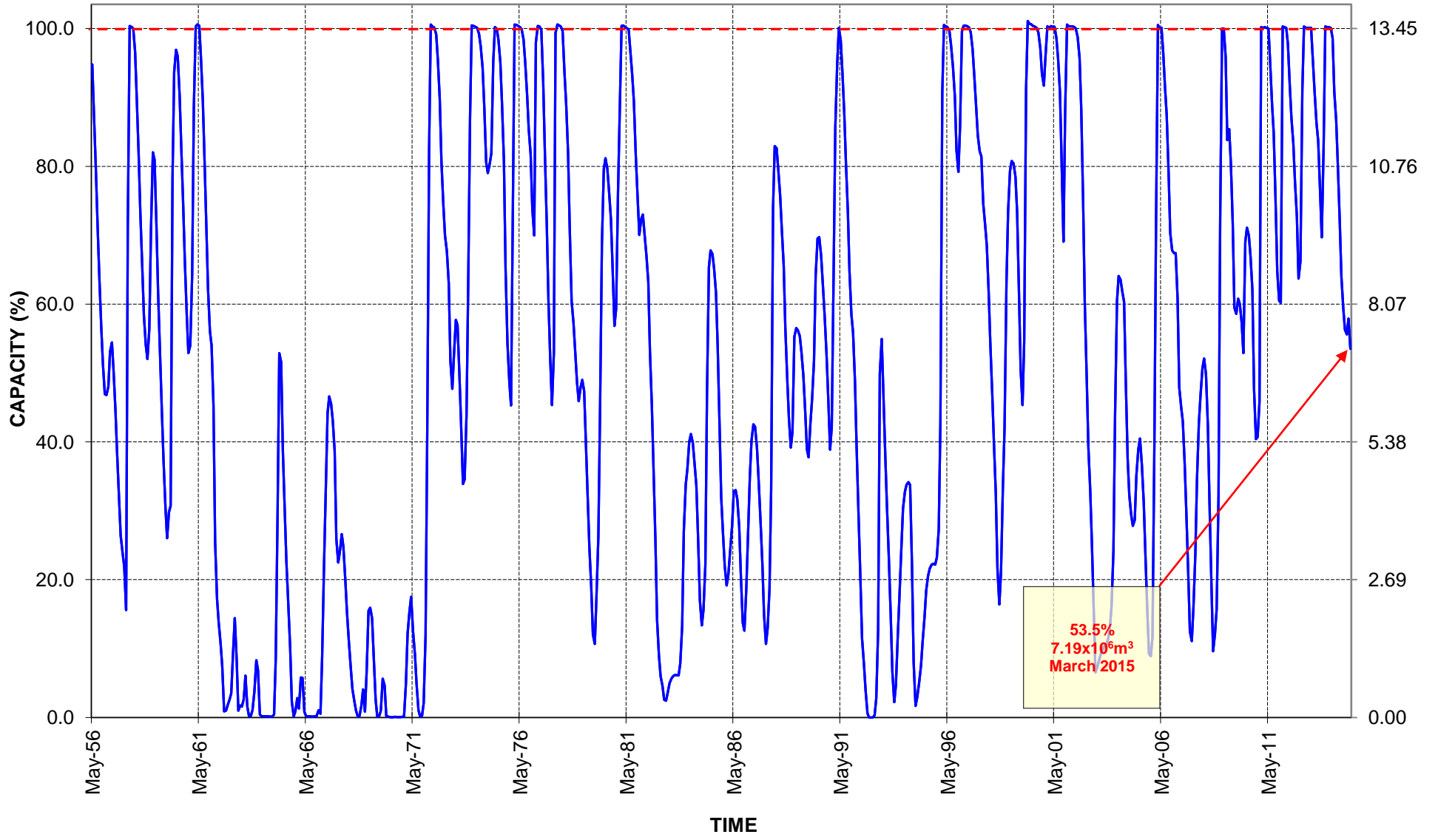
OLIFANTS RIVER AT FLAG BOSHIELO DAM

FULL CAPACITY 185.13*10⁶m³



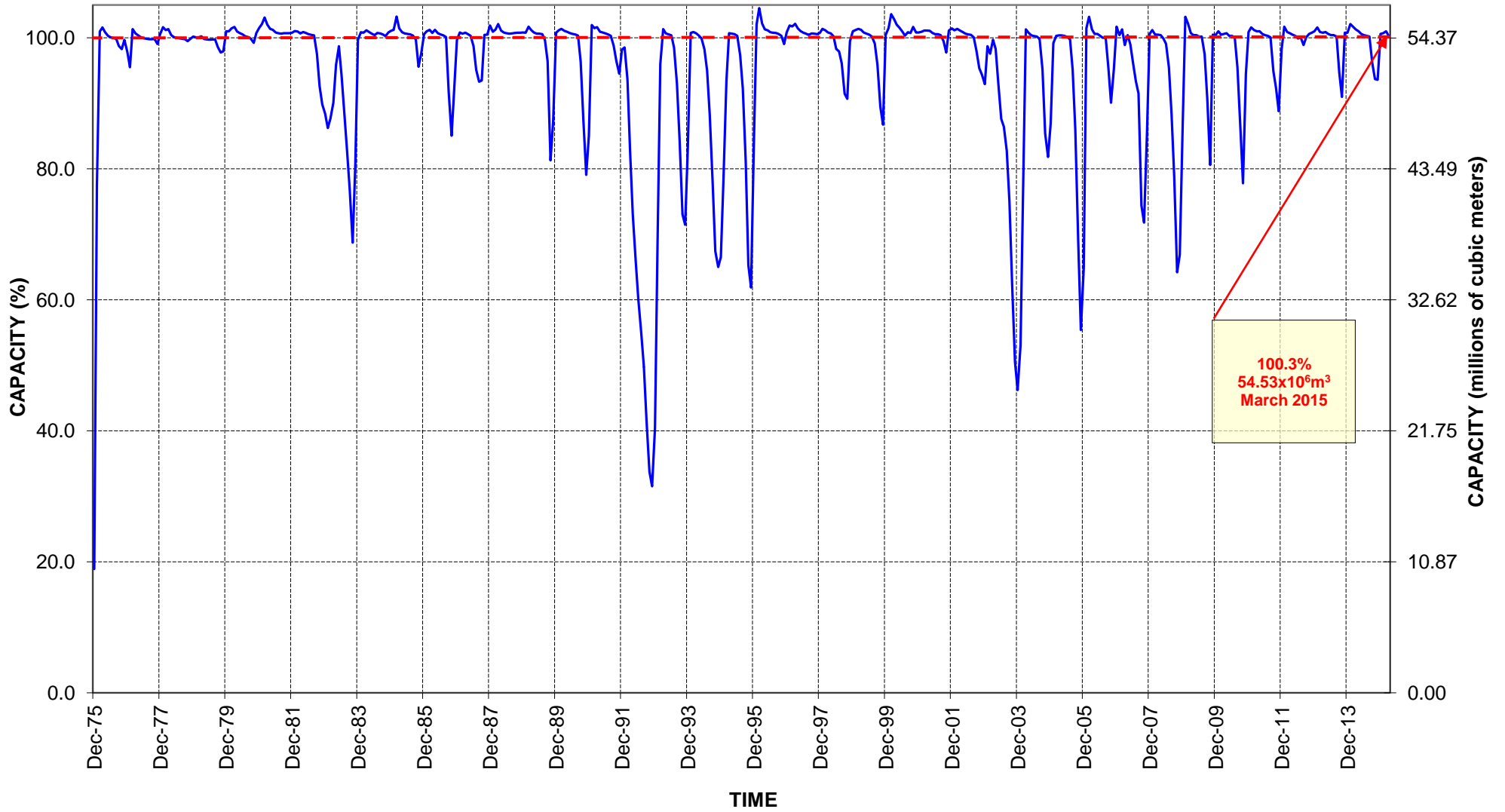
OHRIGSTAD RIVER AT OHRIGSTAD DAM

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



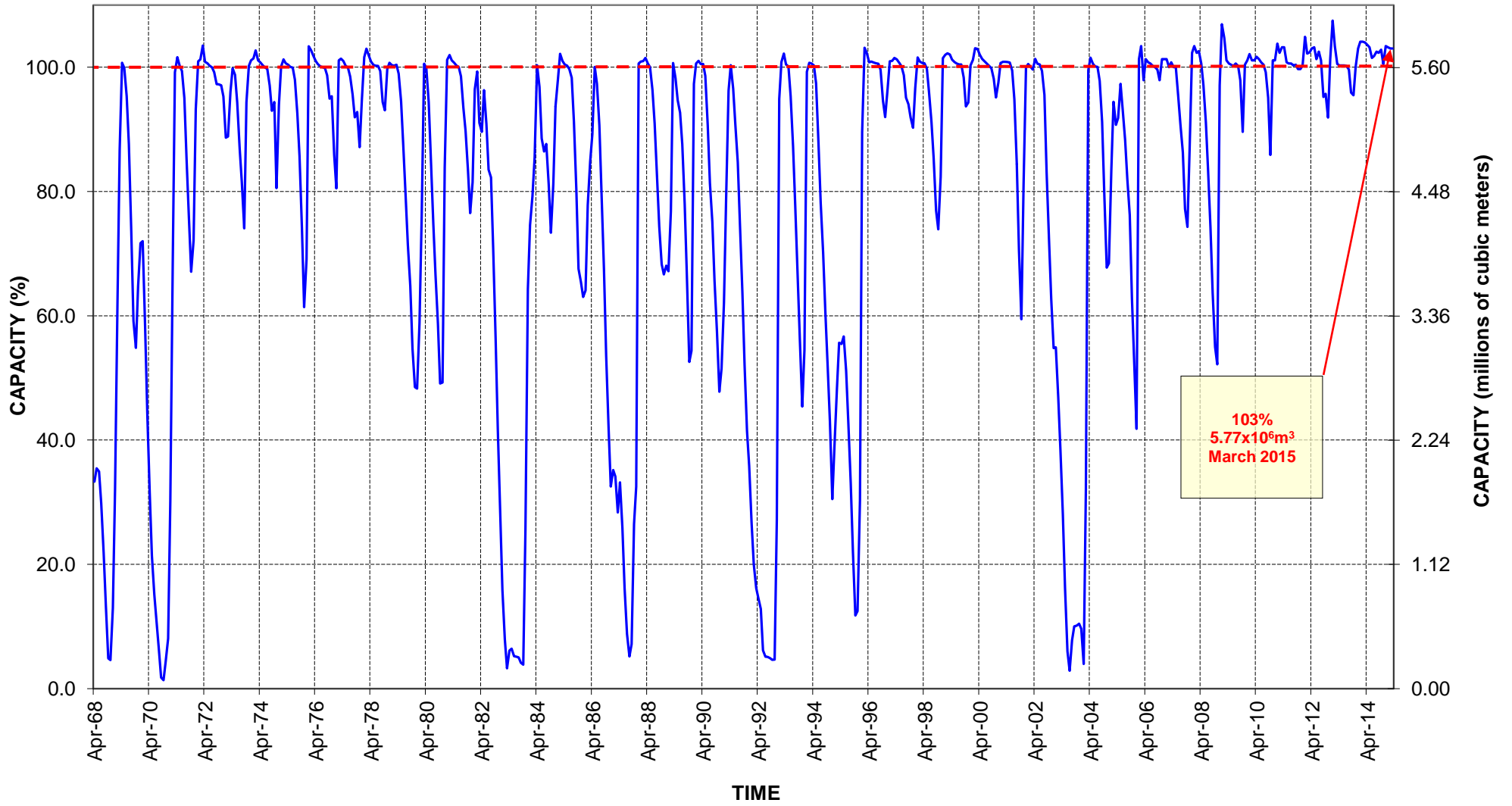
BLYDE RIVER AT BLYDE RIVERSPOORT DAM

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



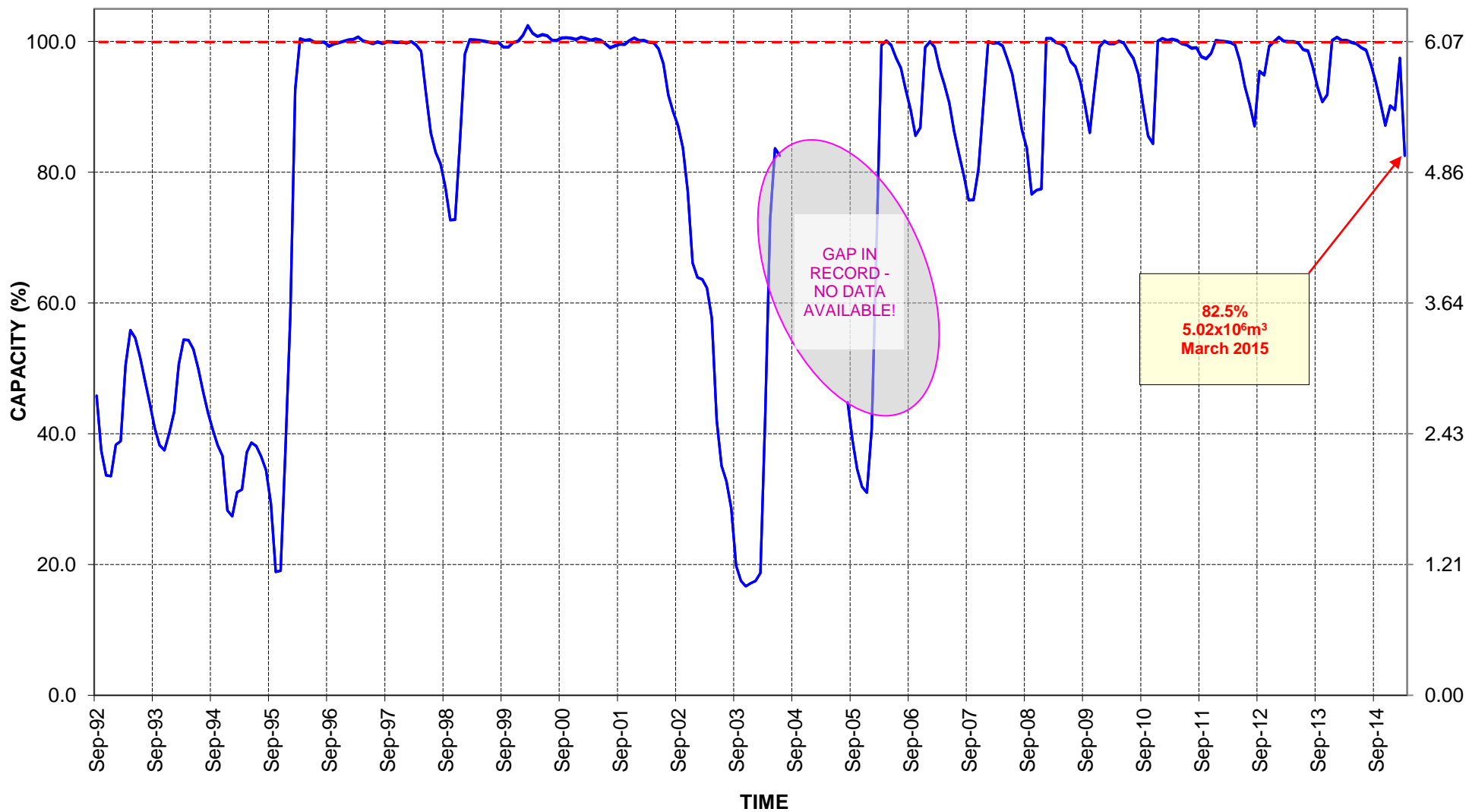
KLASERIE RIVER AT KLASERIE DAM

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



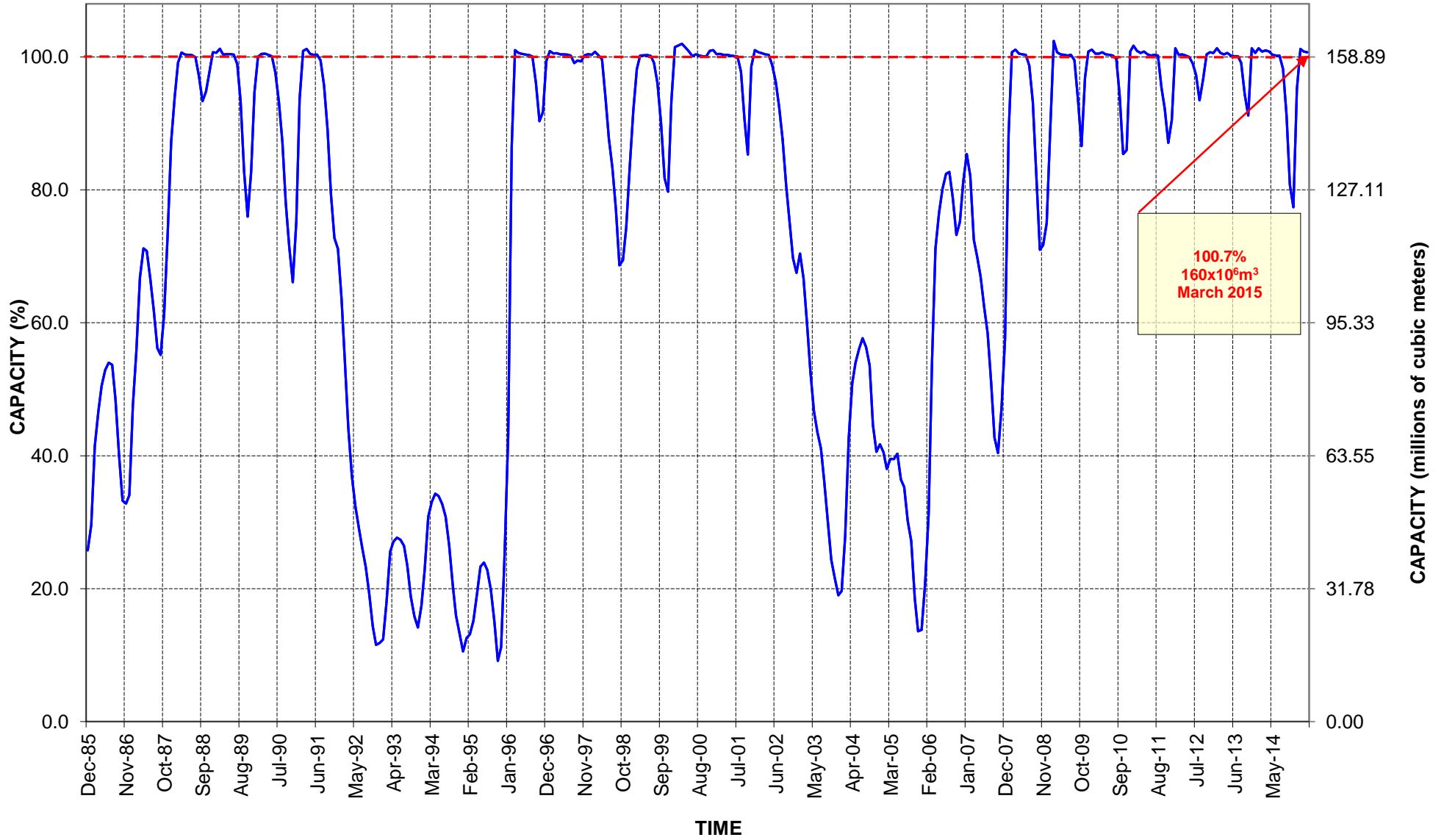
NGWABITSI RIVER AT TOURS DAM

FULL CAPACITY $6.084 \times 10^6 \text{m}^3$



CROCODILE RIVER AT KWENA DAM

FULL CAPACITY 158.89 *10^6m^3



MERITI RIVER AT INYAKA DAM

FULL CAPACITY 123.66 *10⁶m³

