

The Zimbabwe Water Sector

ZIMSTAT & ZINWA

Background

- Initiated the water sector reforms
- Initiated the Water Resources Management Strategy (WRMS) project in 1995
- Changes to legislation
- Institutional restructuring

WRMS Project

- Develop a water resources management strategy
- Carry out diagnostic studies
- Carry out pilot projects
- Study visits

Legislation review

- Contentious areas of the 1976 Water Act
 - *Granting of water rights in perpetuity*
 - *Use of priority date system*
 - *Use of the term water right*
 - *Concept of private water*
 - *The provision of exemption permits for pollution*

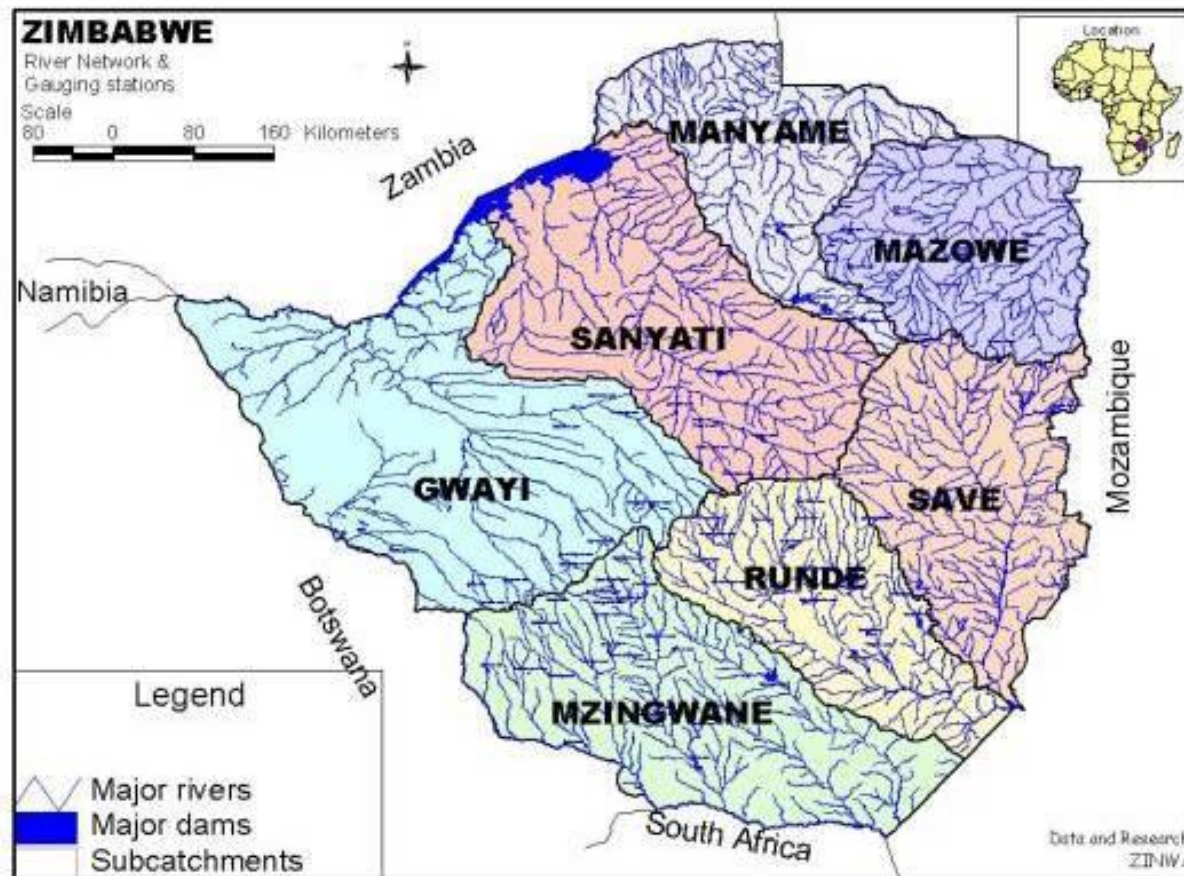
Legislation review

- Changes brought about by the Water Act *Chapter 20:24* of 1998
 - Water rights renamed water permits and granted for a fixed period subject to renewal
 - Water rights no longer granted in perpetuity
 - Concept of private water abolished
 - Priority date system removed
 - Introduced stakeholder institutions
 - Provided for penalties to pollute with stiffer penalties for excessive pollution
 - Recognised the hydrological cycle as it relates to surface and groundwater
 - Recognises the environment as a legitimate user

INSTITUTIONAL RESTRUCTURING

- ZINWA born out of the merger of DWD and RWA under the ZINWA Act
- Catchment and subcatchment councils

Catchment Boundaries



Players in the Water Sector

- Environment Management Agency
- ZINWA
- Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Management
- Meteorological Office
- Local authorities

Challenges in the Water Sector in Zimbabwe

- Under capitalization of the sector to fully carry out its mandate enabling access to clean and safe drinking water.
- Inability of the majority of consumers to service their bills on time.
- National power supply challenges have resulted in reduced production.
- Unavailability of water conveyance structures to deliver water from the dams to intended point of use.
- Frequent breakdowns in the distribution systems due to non-maintenance of the systems

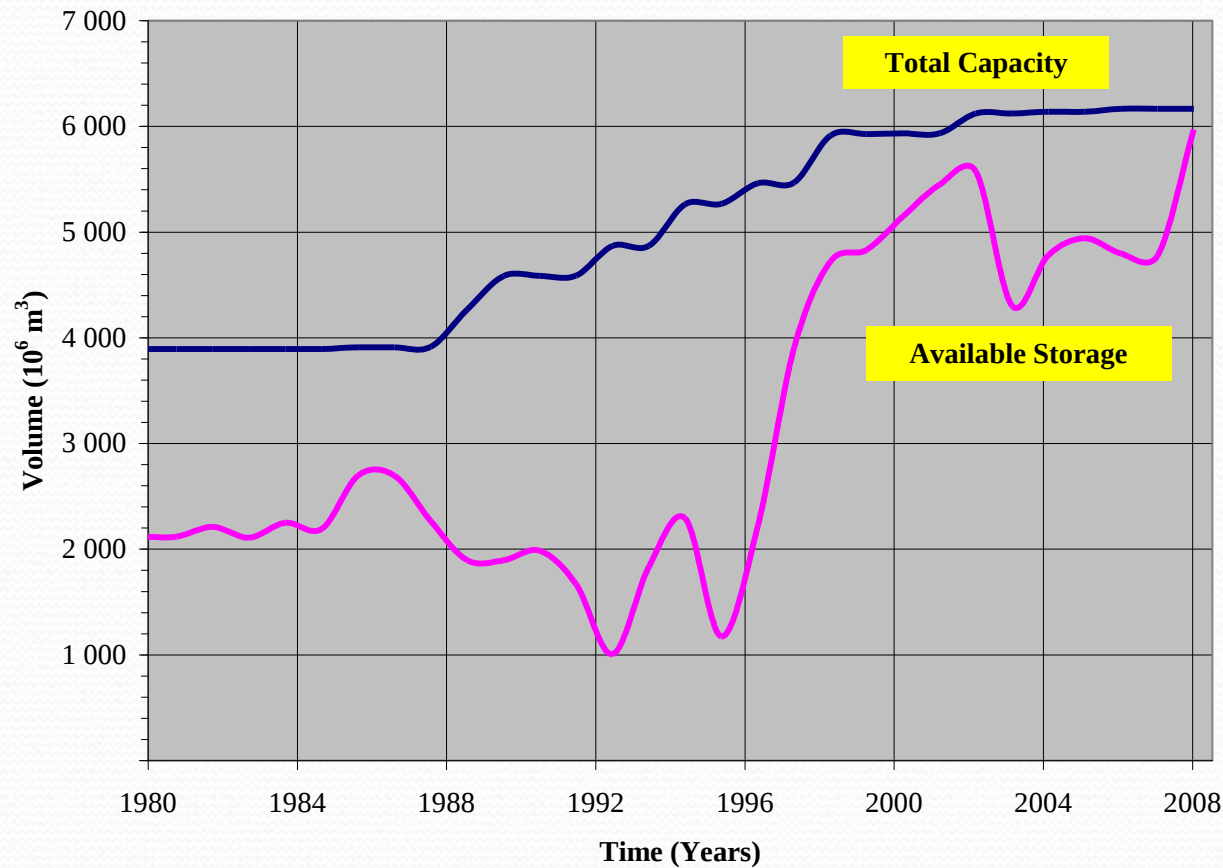
Challenges Cont'd

- Inability to treat adequate water for urban, industrial & mining (UIM) uses and sewerage due to aged equipment and plant, and insufficient treatment capacity
- Unavailability of funding for agricultural inputs for farmers resulting in low uptake of water from the dams
- Limited capacity of contractors and suppliers to fully implement projects
- Most of the materials and equipment has to be imported because they are not readily available on the local market leading to long delivery periods
- The sector has suffered from severe brain drain.
- overlapping responsibilities and lack of clarity among the various entities involved with service provision

Policies to address challenges

- The sector has looked for donor support on the supply of water treatment chemicals as well as water quality testing equipment.
- Engagement with debtors.
- The power authority is prioritizing power supply to water and sewerage works.
- Engagement of international contractors.
- Donor support is being sought for capacity building and technical support.
- Improved institutional arrangements in the sector.
- Consideration of Private Public Partnerships

Water uptake



Water Accounting

- Carried out an environment sector statistics assessment.
- Plans to establish the programme this year.