



LIMPOPO River Awareness Kit

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The River Basin

People and the River

Governance

Resource Management

Português

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Water Infrastructure: Irrigation

In 1997, the Food and Agriculture organisation of the United Nations estimated the irrigation potential of the Limpopo basin at 295 400 ha based on land and water resources and appropriate cropping patterns (FAO 1997).

Irrigation Potential of the Limpopo basin.

Country	Irrigation Potential (ha)	Irrigation water requirements (Mm ³ /year)	Irrigated Area (ha)
Botswana ¹	5 000	53	1 381
Mozambique	148 000	1 702	40 000
South Africa	131 500	1 578	198 000
Zimbabwe ¹	10 900	120	4 000
TOTAL	295 400	3 453	243 381

¹Other literature has given Botswana and Zimbabwe higher irrigation water requirements thereby reducing their irrigation potential estimates herein.
Source:FAO 1997



An example of pivot irrigation near Alldays, South Africa.

Source: Hatfield 2010

(click to enlarge)

[Next: Irrigation Infrastructure: Botswana](#)