



SITUATION REPORT NO. 11 4th March: MAJOR INCIDENTS / ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE RAINFALL SEASON

1. Zimbabwe Hydrological Update as at 4th March 2013 - Zinwa

- Flows in the country's major rivers have been increasing and decreasing in response to the rainfall activities in the country. A decrease in dam levels was recorded during the past week. There are moderate chances of flooding in the flood prone areas of Muzarabani, Gokwe, Middle Sabi, Tsholotsho and Chikwalakwala at the moment.
- The **Zambezi River** flows have been increasing as a result of the rains being experienced within the country and the Zambezi upstream countries. As of today (4 March 2013) the flows are averaging 3490m³/s which is above the expected flows of 2018m³/s at this time of the year.
- The Limpopo River levels remain low (2m) at the moment.
- **Lake Kariba** is now at 72.2% full after gaining 1.3% volume since the 25th of February. The current lake level is well above the 45.3% level expected at this time of the year. A Press Release notifying stakeholders of the intention to spill the dam in March was issued two weeks ago and the exact dates of spilling would be notified in due course.
- The **national dams** have decreased by 0.3% on average since the 25th of February 2013. The current level stands at 64.6% full on average.
- In the **Gwayi Catchment** which covers greater parts of Matabeleland North Province, there has been a decrease in dam levels by 0.4% since the 25th of February 2013. The current dam levels stand at 82.9% full on average.
- In the **Mzingwane Catchment** (mainly Matabeleland South Province), zero flows are still been recorded in the Buby River at Buby Bridge (B59). Dam levels in the catchment stand at 68.3% full on average.

- In the **Save Catchment** (mainly Manicaland Province), flows in the Save River at the Condo Dam site (E21) are currently averaging 13.30m³/s and have been decreasing since the 25th of February. Downstream at Save Gorge the water levels stand at 1.91m. Flows in Devure River at E118 which feeds into Save River are currently averaging 1.04m³/s which is a decrease from the 2.28 m³/s recorded on the 25th of February 2013. Chances of flooding in the Middle Save are low at the moment. The dams in the catchment are averaging 81.8% full.
- In the **Manyame Catchment** (mostly Mashonaland West Province), decrease in flows are being noted in the Manyame River system as well as Musengezi River. As of today the flows in Musengezi River at C68 (Centenary) are averaging 21.30 m³/s. The current flows are above the average flows expected at this time of the year (14.3m³/s). Downstream at Chidodo in the Mbire District the Musengezi River levels stand at 2.00m as of today. The current level is below the threshold of flooding (7.2m) and flooding chances are very low at the moment. The dam levels in the catchment stands at 98.9% full on average.
- In the **Mazowe Catchment** (mostly Mashonaland East and Central Provinces), the Mazowe River flows have increased significantly from 145m³/s on the 25th of February 2013 to 225m³/s as of today (4th of March 2013). The current flows are above the average expected flows (130.5m³/s). The dam levels in the catchment have increased by 0.2% since the 25th of February 2013 and stand at 83.4% full on average.
- In the **Runde Catchment** (mainly Masvingo Province) the dam levels decreased by 0.6% since the 25th of February and stand at 30.8% full on average. Mutirikwi Dam, the largest inland dam is at 17.4% full.
- In the **Sanyati Catchment** (Mainly Midlands Province) there has been a decrease in the dam levels (0.3%) since the 25th of February and the level stands at 81.4% full. Chances of flooding in Gokwe are remote at the moment.

Opening of Spillway gates at Kariba Dam: The Zambezi River Authority has issued a statement that it intends to open 2 spillway gates at 12 00hrs on 16th March 2013. Alert messages have been sent to at risk communities.

2. Major Incidents: Provincial Summaries

Matebeleland South

Gwanda District

Heavy rains and breaching of small dams gave rise to flooding in the West Nicholson area of Gwanda District causing damage to 27 households.

Mashonaland West

Kariba urban

A non rainfall season related incident occurred in Kariba urban where two adults were mauled to death by lions on 5th March 2013. A pride of lions was reportedly spotted in the town and National Parks rangers have been dispatched to the area.

Hurungwe District:

Flooding occurred at the National Parks Marongora Field Station on 16th February 2013. Thirteen households were damaged and the families lost food items and other household items.

3. WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE PERIOD 26 FEBRUARY TO 04 MARCH 2013:

Light to moderate rainfall activity occurred across the country over the past week. Day time temperatures layed in the warm to hot category (Going up to 37 degrees in Matebeleland South).

EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST 05 MARCH TO 11 MARCH 2013: THE MIDLANDS, MASHONALAND PROVINCES, HARARE AND MANICALAND:

Moist conditions should continue with scattered afternoon showers or thundershowers. Heavy rains will be potentially violent (strong winds and hail). It should be mild in the morning, becoming hot as the day progresses.

MASVINGO, MATEBELELAND PROVINCES AND BULAWAYO:

Isolated showers with morning drizzle should be expected throughout the forecast period. Temperatures should be mild in the morning, becoming hot to very hot later.

Compiled by Department of Civil Protection

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