



- . There are > 915 dams in KwaZulu-Natal with a capacity > 20 000 m<sup>3</sup> (domestic, industrial, irrigation, stock watering.)
- . Total capacity:
  - . **5,203,921,000,000 liters**
  - . **5,203,921,000 m<sup>3</sup>**

The 10 largest dams are:

Dam	Completed	Raised	Nearest town	River	Capacity (mil. m <sup>3</sup> )
Pongolapoort	1973		Pongola	Phongola	2445
Woodstock	1982		Bergville	Tugela	373
Goedertrouw	1982		Eshowe	Mhlatuze	301
Albert Falls	1976		New Hanover	Mgeni	289
Spioenkop	1973		Ladysmith	Tugela	272
Midmar	1965	2003	Howick	Mgeni	235
Ntshingwayo	1961		Newcastle	Ingagane	211
Qedusizi	1998		Ladysmith	Klip	194
Zaaihoek	1988		Wakkerstroom	Slang	185
Bivane	2000		Vryheid	Bivane	115

The capacity of these 10 dams is 4,622 million m<sup>3</sup> (89 % of the total capacity of the dams in KwaZulu-Natal) and 50% of the capacity can provide a sufficient supply of domestic water (150 l/p/d) to > 42 million people for 1 year.

Ninety-one (91) dams have a total capacity of > 1 million m<sup>3</sup> with a total capacity of 5,042 million m<sup>3</sup> which is 96 % of the total capacity of all the dams in KwaZulu-Natal. The total capacity of the KwaZulu-Natal dams is 16 % of the total capacity of all the dams in South Africa



Midmar Dam (2005) (Photo: DWS)



Pongolapoort Dam – the largest dam in KZN (Photo: DWS)

Most of the dams in KwaZulu-Natal were constructed between 1977 and 1997 (20 to 40 years ago). Since 1997 (20 years ago) 46 dams were constructed with a total capacity of 270 million m<sup>3</sup>. The Midmar Dam (sixth largest dam in KZN, constructed in 1963) was raised in 2003.

The total surface area of all the dams in KwaZulu-Natal is approximately 45,790 ha (458 km<sup>2</sup> or 21 x 21 km).

. The Department of Water and Sanitation is owner of 25 dams with a total capacity of 4,701 million m<sup>3</sup> (90 % of the total dam capacity in KwaZulu-Natal).

