



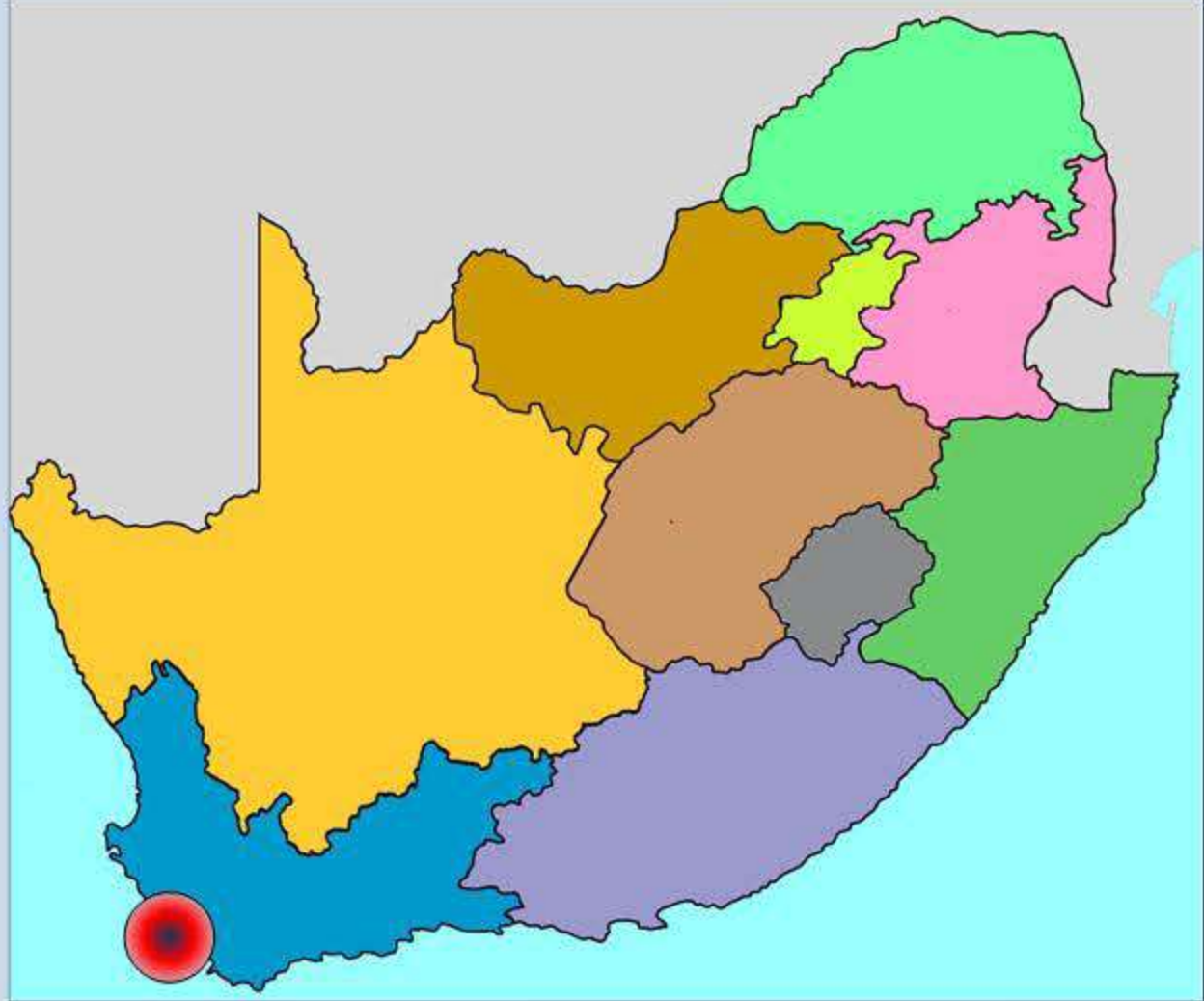
Construction of the Lower Steenbras Dam commenced in 1918 and was completed three years later. The Steenbras scheme could supply Cape Town with up to 42 million litres of water per day. The water demand for the city at that time was 29 million litres per day. The demand however grew rapidly and In 1928 the wall was raised.

The Steenbras Upper Dam was completed in 1977 with almost the same capacity as the Steenbras Lower Dam. In addition to storing water, the Steenbras Upper Dam is also used to generate electricity. It is the upper reservoir of the Steenbras pumped storage scheme of the City of Cape Town. The lower reservoir is just North of Gordons Bay, about 300 m lower. The pump storage scheme generate electricity (gravity flow via turbines) during peak demand hours and during the night the turbines are reversed to pump water back to the upper reservoir using surplus electricity.

The Steenbras Upper Dam is also linked by an open canal and pipeline to the Rockview Dam that forms the upper reservoir of the Palmiet Pumped Storage Scheme of Escom. This allows for water from the Palmiet River to be transferred the Upper Steenbras Dam.

References: (1) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steenbras_Dam. (2) <https://capewaterharvest.co.za/cape-town-dams/>

Photos: Panoramia



- Upper and Lower dams: 50% of the capacity can supply > 620 thousand domestic users with water for 1 year (150 liter/person/day).
- Upper and Lower dams: The surface area is equivalent to 800 rugby fields.

STEENBRAS LOWER DAM (34.1868361 S; 18.8525306 E)

Completed: 1921 (Renovated: 1989) River: Steenbras River. Capacity: 36.1 million m³

Type of dam: Concrete gravity.

Length of wall (top): 940 m Length of dam (longest distance from wall to inflow): 4.9 km

Nearest town: Gordons Bay Surface area: 380 ha

Water use: Municipal and industrial.

Capacity compared to the Theewaterskloof Dam: > 13 times smaller

STEENBRAS UPPER DAM (34.16806 S; 18.90139 E)

Completed: 1977 River: Steenbras River. Capacity: 31.77 million m³

Type of dam: Earthfill.

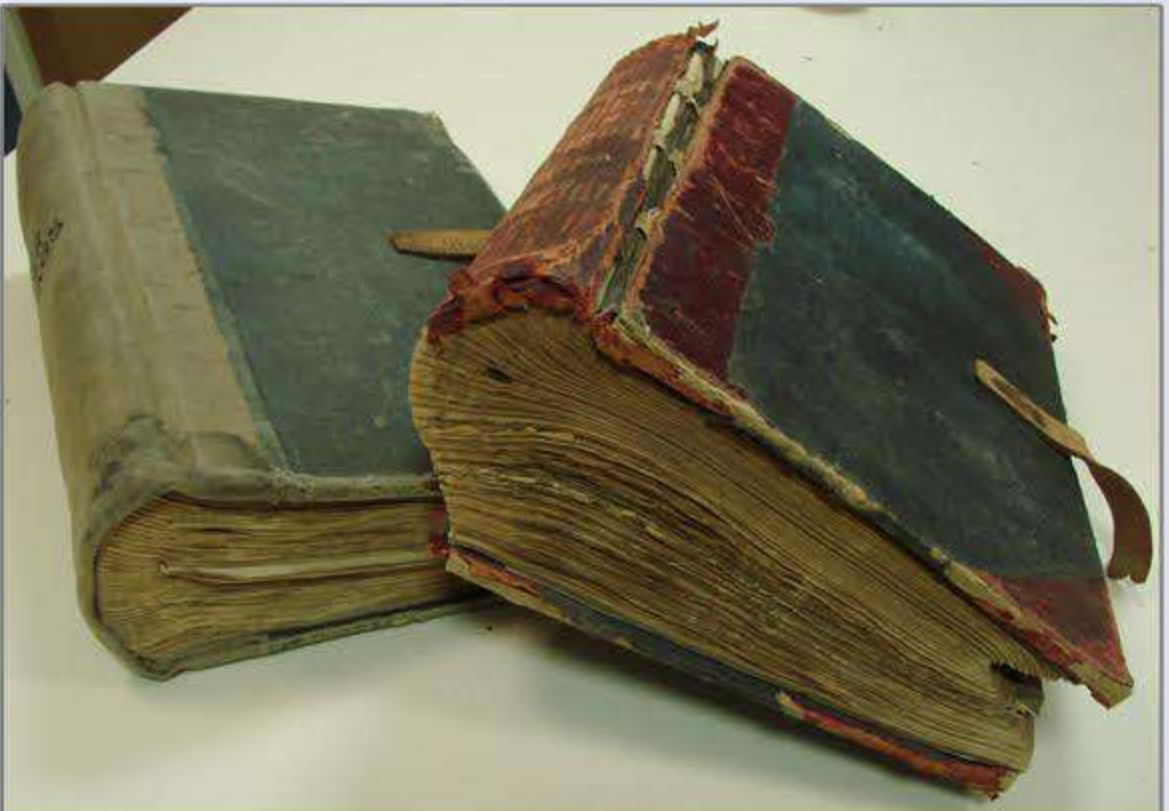
Length of wall (top): 940 m Length of dam (longest distance from wall to inflow): 4.2 km

Nearest town: Gordons Bay Surface area: 263 ha

Water use: Municipal, electricity and industrial.

Capacity compared to the Theewaterskloof Dam: > 15 times smaller

CAPE PENINSULA
WATER SUPPLY
REPORT 23RD JANUARY, 1906.



Historical documents of the Water Schemes for Cape Town (1906) – not much different today, > 100 years later.

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