



PRESS STATEMENT
(For Immediate Release)

UPDATE ON THE HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AT THE KARIBA DAM

Lusaka, 27th August 2024 – The Zambezi River Authority hereby shares an update on the hydrological outlook for the Kariba Catchment and the status of water levels at the Kariba Dam as follows:

Zambezi River Flows at Chavuma

From the last update, river flows at Chavuma gauging station - the first station where the Zambezi River re-enters Zambia from Angola - continued to be in recession as shown in the four-week comparative table below:

Four (4) Week Comparative Chart for Zambezi River Flows Recorded at Chavuma Gauging Station.

Date	2024	2023
5 th August	146m ³ /s	181m ³ /s
12 th August	132m ³ /s	161m ³ /s
19 th August	118m ³ /s	144m ³ /s
27 th August	102m ³ /s	128m ³ /s

Zambezi River Flows at Victoria Falls

The Zambezi River flows at Victoria Falls are also currently receding as expected for this time of year but are substantially lower than average due to the severe drought that was experienced during the 2023/2024 rainfall season.

Four (4) Week Comparative Chart for Zambezi River Flows Recorded at Victoria Falls Gauging Station (Nanas Farm Gauging Station).

Date	2024	2023
5 th August	397m ³ /s	616m ³ /s
12 th August	374m ³ /s	554m ³ /s
19 August	347m ³ /s	505m ³ /s
27 th August	324m ³ /s	457m ³ /s

Lake Levels at Kariba Dam.

The table below displays a four-week comparison of lake levels at Kariba Dam, which have been receding due to reduced upstream inflows. Notably, the lake level remains lower compared to the corresponding period last year. A decrease of 2.59m is evident when comparing today's lake level to the lake level of the same date in 2023, as illustrated in the four-week comparative chart.

Four (4) Week Comparative Chart for Lake Levels Recorded at Kariba Dam.

Date	2024			2023		
	Meter ASL	BCM	%	Meter ASL	BCM	%
5 th August	477.00m	6.70	10.35%	479.62m	18.82	29.05%
12 th August	476.95m	6.48	10.01%	479.56m	18.54	28.62%
19 th August	476.87m	6.12	9.46%	479.46m	18.07	27.89%
27 th August	476.75m	5.59	8.64%	479.34m	17.55	27.02%

Southern Africa Climate Outlook Forum" or SARCOF 2024

It is also worth noting that local, regional, and international weather experts are currently meeting in Harare (from August 26-28, 2024), Zimbabwe, under the auspices of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Climate Services Center (CSC) weather forum, commonly known as the "Southern Africa Climate Outlook Forum" or SARCOF. The meeting aims to provide a consensus outlook for the upcoming 2024/2025 rainfall season. The details of the consensus outlook for the 2024/2025 rainfall season for the SADC Region, including the Kariba catchment, will be provided. The actual 2024/2025 downscaled rainfall forecast for the Kariba catchment will be provided by the respective Meteorological Departments of the Republics of Zambia and Zimbabwe after the SARCOF meetings are concluded.

The Zambezi River Authority will utilize the downscaled Kariba Catchment rainfall forecast to undertake detailed hydrological simulations using its state-of-the-art Kariba Hydrological Inflow Forecasting Software System (IFS) and allocate water for power generation operations at Kariba dam for the year 2025. As per usual equity considerations, the allocation will be shared equally between ZESCO Limited and Zimbabwe Power Company (ZPC), the power generation utilities of Zambia and Zimbabwe that own and operate Kariba North Bank Power Station and Kariba South Bank Power Station, respectively.

The Authority assures the public that it continues to maintain constant surveillance over the hydrological outlook and the Kariba Catchment's performance and also ensures that information regarding any new developments or changes that may occur is timeously disseminated.

About Zambezi River Authority

The Zambezi River Authority is a bilateral organisation that is jointly and equally owned by the Governments of Zambia and Zimbabwe (the Contracting States). The Authority's primary function is to operate, maintain, monitor and regulate the water level in the Kariba Reservoir. It is also mandated to construct, operate and maintain any other dam infrastructure on the Zambezi River and to collect, accumulate and process hydrological and environmental data regarding the Zambezi River for improved performance of its functions and for any other purpose beneficial to the socio-economic development of the Contracting States.



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