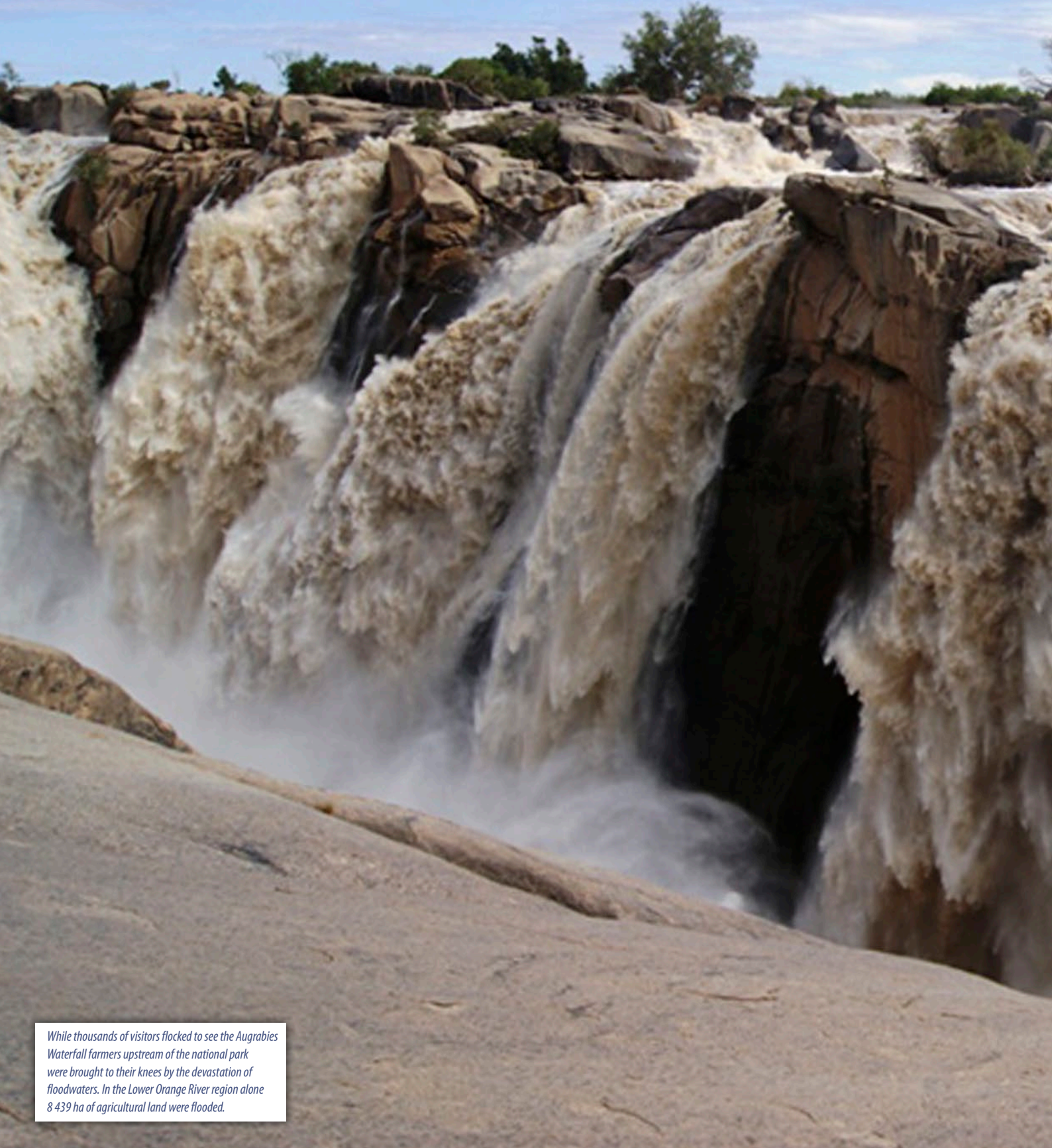


SA mops up following floods

It is a long road of recovery ahead for South Africa after widespread flooding devastated large parts of the country during December and January. Commercial and emerging farmers, rural communities and townsfolk alike endured the destruction of

crops, houses, roads, transmission lines, schools, bridges, water pipelines and other infrastructure. At the time of writing no final figures were available but damage was estimated to run into billions of Rands. A total of 33 municipalities were declared disaster areas, and more than 14 000

families have been affected, the majority being in KwaZulu-Natal. In his State of the Nation address in February, President Jacob Zuma allocated R800-million towards disaster relief efforts. Various private institutions and international donors have also availed financial assistance.



While thousands of visitors flocked to see the Augrabies Waterfall farmers upstream of the national park were brought to their knees by the devastation of floodwaters. In the Lower Orange River region alone 8 439 ha of agricultural land were flooded.



The Orange River at the Augrabies Waterfall National Park.

Augrabies Waterfall National Park



Augrabies Waterfall National Park



Augrabies Waterfall National Park

Above, middle and below: The wooden viewdeck at Augrabies snapped like a pack of twigs under the power of the Orange River.



Augrabies Waterfall National Park

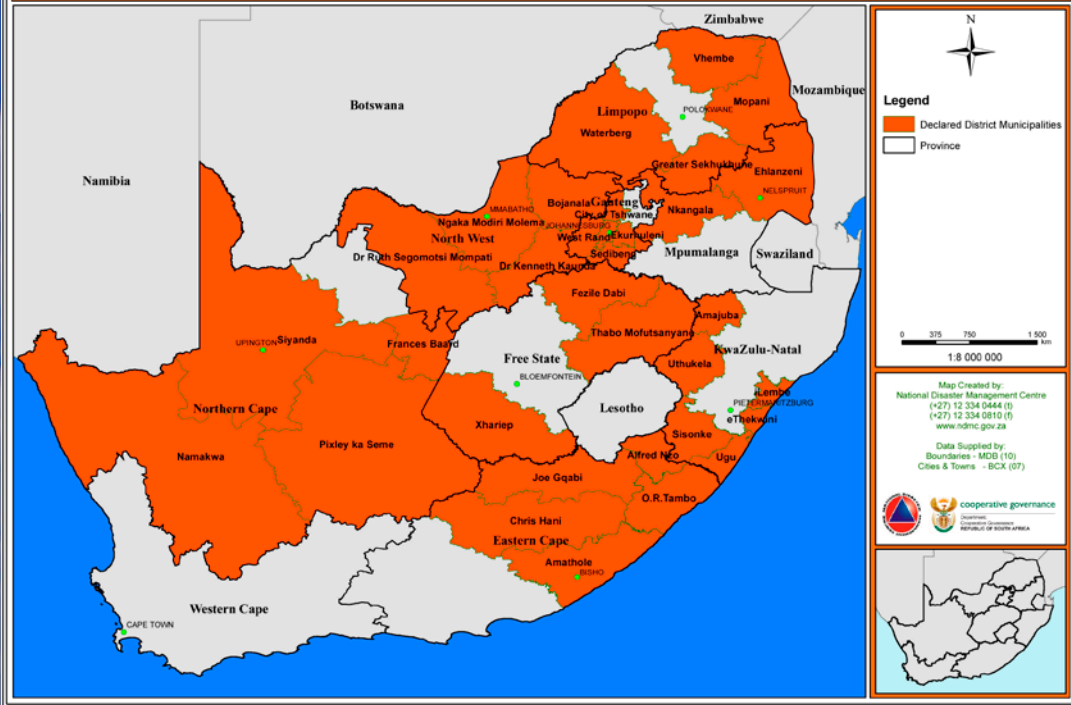


The Orange River in Augrabies Waterfall National Park. The Gariep Dam located upstream of the park peaked at 119% full with an outflow of 2 500 m³/s.

Augrabies Waterfall National Park

Augrabies Waterfall National Park

District Municipalities Declared Disaster Areas- January 2011



The Hartbeespoort Dam in North West was one of the many dams in the country that had to open their crest gates to let floodwaters through.



Theo Venter

Damage to the Schoemansdrift bridge following the Vaal River floods.



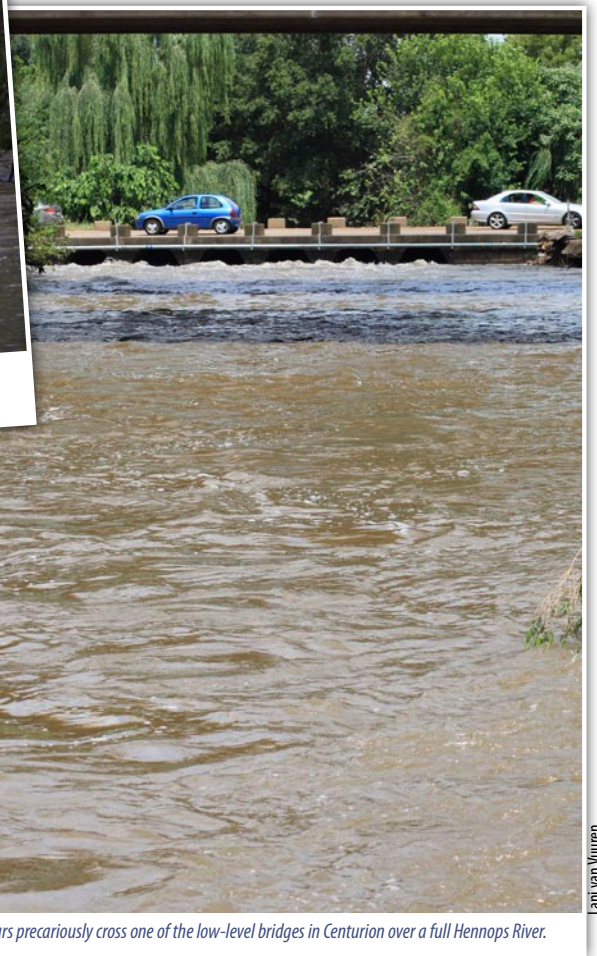
Theo Venter

A swollen Vaal River near Parys, Free State. A peak outflow of 2 400 m³/s was released from the Vaal Dam's 17 open sluices in January, rivalling 1996 peak outflow figures. At Vaal Barrage 31 of the 35 sluices were opened.



Theo Venter

Vaal River water gushes over the Schoemansdrift bridge. In the Upper Vaal damage was limited to urban areas where development had been allowed in the flood zone.



Lani van Vuuren

Cars precariously cross one of the low-level bridges in Centurion over a full Hennops River.



Lani van Vuuren

Debris lies on one of the low-level bridges in Centurion, Pretoria, submerged when the Hennops River overtopped its banks. Tshwane fireman Henry Knox was one of the victims of the raging river.