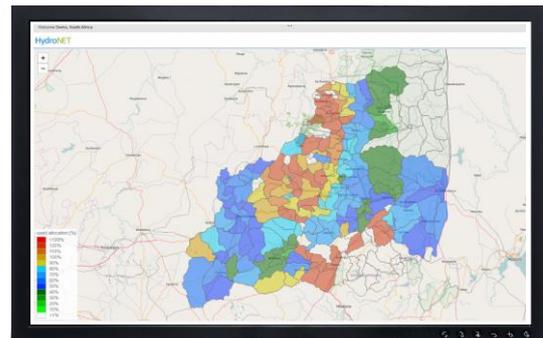


Press Release - South Africa implements Water Auditing Application to reduce irrigated water use

August 2018. The Department of Water and Sanitation of South Africa has signed a long-term contract with the South African Weather Service, HydroNET and eLEAF to rollout the Water Auditing Application to support compliance monitoring of irrigated water use.

The recent droughts in South Africa have put an enormous pressure on the available water resources. 63% of the available water is used for irrigation. To regulate water use, a water licensing system is introduced in the National Water Act of South Africa. Water resources managers have a major challenge to monitor compliance, since water meters are not available for most farms. The South African Inkomati Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA), HydroNET and eLEAF have joined forces to design and develop the Water Auditing Application: a **low-cost** compliance monitoring solution to identify farms that use more water for irrigation than allowed. This information enables water managers to warn and raise awareness among farmers by showing them their water use compared to others. Since the implementation of the Water Auditing Application for the IUCMA, **irrigated water use has been significantly reduced**. Because of this success, the Department of Water and Sanitation has now decided to rollout the Water Auditing Application throughout South Africa.

The Water Auditing application is based on weather information from the South African Weather Service and **eLEAF's PiMapping® technology** to calculate the volume of water used per irrigated field. This volume is automatically compared with the permitted volumes, **flagging non-compliance**. For water resource managers the application offers easy access and insight into the irrigated water use per field, farm, catchment, district or any other management. It highlights areas with excessive water use, supporting water managers to **optimize their permit enforcement strategies**. All this information is available via online dashboards through **the HydroNET platform**, an award-winning decision support system for water managers. The combination of eLEAF's PiMapping technology and HydroNET Software as a Service (SAAS) solution ensures that the Water Auditing application **can be implemented anytime, anywhere at any place in the world**.



The development of the Water Auditing Application has been supported by the 'Business Applications' programme of the European Space Agency (ESA) commissioned by the Netherlands Space Office (NSO). The Water Auditing application will be presented at the **"African Spatial Delight" session at the Stockholm Water Week on August 29 from 11:00 to 12:30**.



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