



Figure 2.15 : Evaporation Map of Namibia

Evaporation far exceeds precipitation throughout Namibia, and together with evapotranspiration is the country's biggest water "consumer". Evaporation is difficult to measure from open water surfaces such as lakes, because it is not usually possible to distinguish between evaporation and seepage losses. It can be estimated by considering a number of other climatic parameters, but in Namibia evaporation has generally been measured by observing the fall in water depth in a standard water-tight metal pan. This observed evaporation is usually higher than would be expected from a large open water surface such as a dam, and a reduction factor has to be applied. In Figure 2.15, lines of equal annual evaporation in Namibia are shown based on all observed data up to 1987. Estimates for the coastal belt are considered approximate only, based as they are, on very few data. Note: Rainfall isohyets shown in Figure 2.15 are as they appeared on the 1988 source map. Updated isohyets are provided in Figure 2.8.

Source : Evaporation Map for Namibia, 1988, Hydrology Division, DWA.