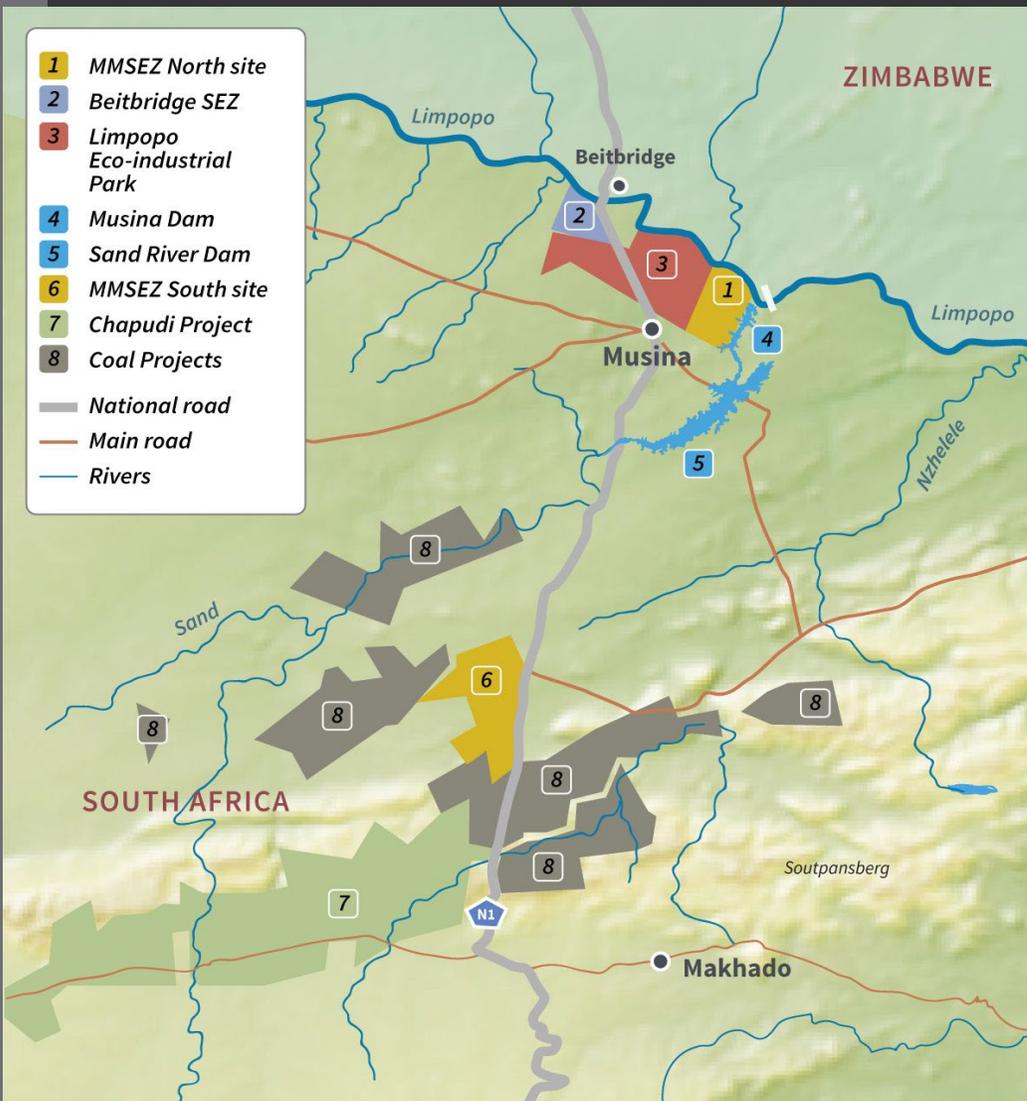


# Water Governance of the Northern Limpopo Webinar and media launch 12 August



This is the second report exploring the water dimensions of the EMSEZ. The first report can be download from [here](#).

*Presentation of research report by Dr Victor Munnik with Q&A and comment, followed by discussion of implications and networking re MMSEZ and Musina Dam plans.*

The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung South Africa commissioned a study, building on an initial report published in May 2020 [link - “Water risks of fossil fuel mega projects in Limpopo: the MCWAP and the EMSEZ”], to investigate the governance of water in the Limpopo River catchment, both in the South African portion, in which the EMSEZ - Electro-Minerals Special Economic Zone, recently rebranded as the Musina-Makhado SEZ - is set to take place, and amongst the four riparian countries: South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. The scope was recently extended to include analysis of a Pre-feasibility Study for a proposed big dam to store Limpopo River floodwaters.

A big dam alongside the Limpopo River is the latest proposal from proponents of the MMSEZ, seeking to supply more than 90% of the water for the minerals complex (to include a coal-fired power station and various steel and related industries), as well as other water users. How feasible are any of the dam options being put forward? Could such a mega-project be financed even as the curtain is falling on coal development, not least as a result of climate change impacts?

The ‘Musina dam’ illustrates refusal of MMSEZ developers to accept that the Limpopo catchment is closed, meaning that all its available water has been allocated, and that some has been over-allocated. The second part of the presentation argues that both plans for the Musina Dam, and opposition to it, are symptoms of the absence of water governance in the Limpopo. It explores the recently announced plans for a super Catchment Management Agency that will stretch from Pretoria to the Limpopo River, and from the Groot Marico to the Olifants catchment in Mpumalanga.