



Integration of Climate Change Adaptation into IWRM programming in Lesotho

EU Action “Support to Integrated Catchment Management in Lesotho”

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The action in a nutshell



Overall Objective

“Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) facilitates socio-economic development and adaptation to climate change in Lesotho”

Timeframe:

January 2020 to December 2023 (4 years)

Multi-Donor Action:

EUR 28 million financing by European Union

EUR 6 million financing by German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

EUR 5 million parallel financing from Government of Lesotho

Explanatory video- ReNOKA- Relevance of ICM in Lesotho and Southern Africa





The Problem: Severe land degradation caused by unsustainable land use, exacerbated by climate change

Population growth, poverty and food insecurity have forced people into previously uninhabited areas like wetlands and mountain slopes- **severe land degradation** in country.

The **consequences** are alarming:

- Lesotho's annual depletion of natural resources is **5.9% of GNI**.
- Erosion leads to an annual topsoil loss of **more than 2%**.
- The significant reduction in arable land **increases food insecurity, reduces livelihood opportunities** and **fuels communal conflict**.
- Wetland degradation **reduces water supply** across the basin area.
- Uncontrolled land degradation increasingly **threatens** essential infrastructure such as **dams, roads and buildings**.

The Problem: Severe land degradation caused by unsustainable land use, exacerbated by climate change

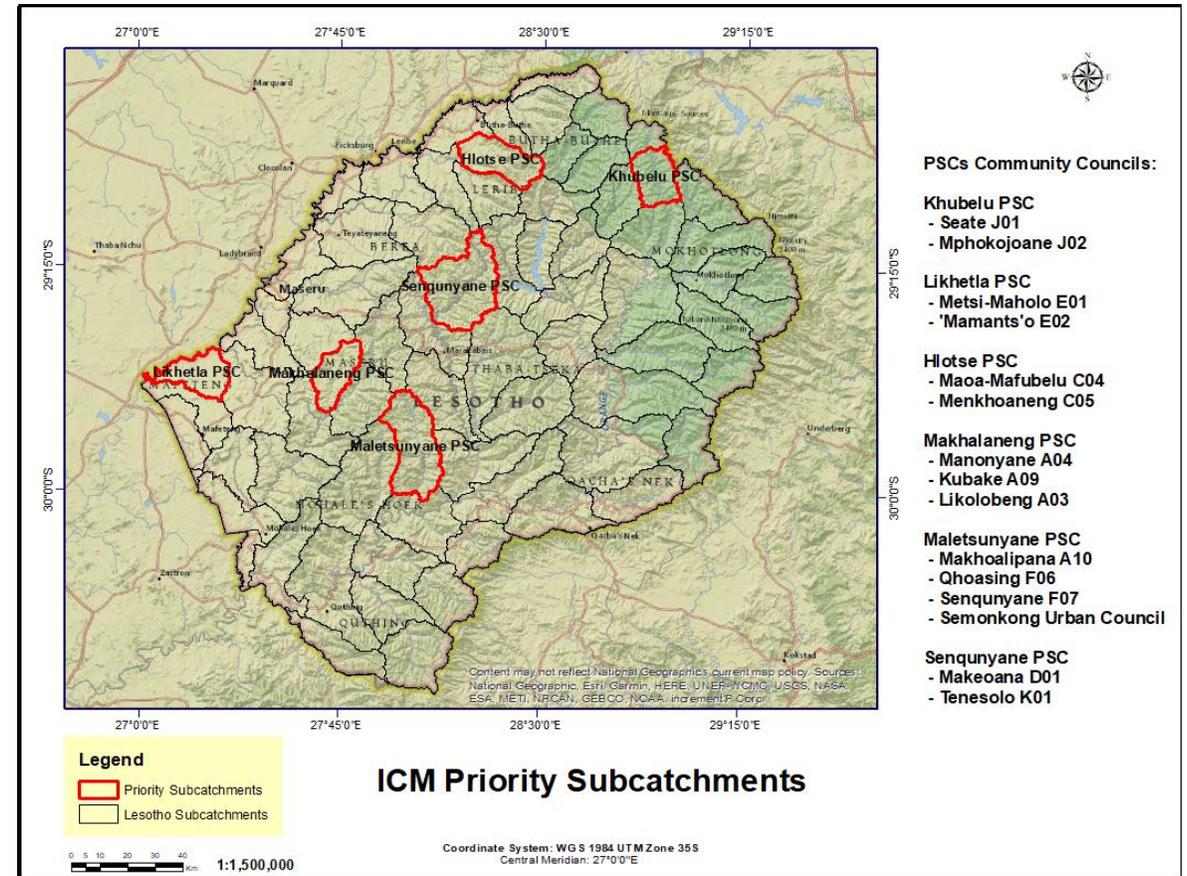
Climate change presents an important aggravating factor.



The programme approach:

A national rollout of local-level watershed improvement, supported by effective national policies, institutions, and skills development

- The programme started operating in six priority sub-catchments, selected based on size, hydrology, agriculture and wetland area.
- In subsequent years, the programme will roll out to more sub-catchments to achieve results at national scale.
- Incentives will be created for communities to join the programme and for successful communities to receive additional funding for watershed improvement.



A multi-level programme with five interlinked outputs-

Systematic integration of CCA across the 5 outputs

**Policy
framework
developed
and
applied**

Use of a systemic Risk-informed Development approach in the next National Strategic Development Plan

Substantive integration of land and water management aspects in Lesotho's NDC and NAP

**Effective,
efficient &
inclusive
institutions**

Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessments as integral component of Catchment Management Planning Processes

Development of financing architecture for strategic catchment management area plans aims to leverage climate financing (e.g. GCF)

**Capacity,
skills and
knowledge
for ICM**

Public awareness campaigns / social and behaviour change communication with adaptation messages aimed at land and water users

**ICM
measures
implemented**

Advance climate resilience through the prioritisation of adaptation actions. Focus on Ecosystem-based adaptation and nature based solutions as key measures for catchment restoration.

Collaboration with UNCDF LoCAL for local financing of adaptation measures

**Coordination
monitoring &
supervision**

Land cover based assessment of the changes of critical ecosystems like wetlands and rangelands

Monitoring and reporting on adaptation targets

Achieving sustainable results:



An ICM movement

Involvement by ministries, traditional authorities, civil society and media.

Raising awareness and skills for a movement carried by ordinary Basotho.



Skills development

Addressing longer-term skills gaps through professional training and tertiary education.



Integration in existing structures

ICM integration in national, district and community planning processes.

Support to decentralisation in Lesotho.



Funding mobilization

Working towards progressive funding of ICM from the Nation Budget.

Funding mechanism akin to local grant facility, which can attract additional funding sources.



Regionalisation

Supporting complementary actions by other riparian states, as well as regional strategies and learning.



Lessons learnt

- Programming for CCA is only effective when integrated into sectoral approaches to land and water management
- CCA must be clearly articulated “from the top” (objective statement of Action; national development strategy of the partner country)
- Assessment of specific vulnerabilities and systemic risks as well as a profound discussion on cause-impact chains with stakeholders are more relevant than precise climatic projections for effective CCA programming
- Need to build human and institutional capacities for approaches such as CRVA and proper monitoring and reporting on adaptation targets

Thank you



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