



FACT SHEET

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN THE LESOTHO HIGHLANDS

CHALLENGE

Water plays a crucial role in supporting Lesotho's economy, fueling the country's agriculture, trade, and livelihoods. As climate change makes water cycles less predictable, Lesotho's economy will have to adapt to changing rainfall patterns and water availability.

APPROACH

Working in four water catchments in the Lesotho Highlands, the Institute of Natural Resources, in cooperation with Serumula Development Association and GROW Lesotho, are collaborating with government and local communities to strengthen their ability to respond to the potential impacts of climate change through better policies and practices. Operating on a \$1.1 million budget, this four-year project (October 2010 - September 2014) aims to adapt the management of range and water resources to ensure a more sustainable future.

OBJECTIVES

1. To assess climate change vulnerabilities and design livelihood adaptation practices that can be undertaken by communities to enhance resilience to climate change and ensure provision of ecosystem services.
2. To build capacity and knowledge linked to land use and integrated catchment management to better equip and facilitate communities ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change.
3. To integrate an understanding of climate change risks and adaptation strategies into Lesotho's policy, planning, and operations.



RESULTS

- 157 people (68 women) have participated in climate change lectures hosted by the project.
- 16 workshops to develop climate change action plans have been conducted across the four regions.
- 1693 people, (827 women) have new capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate variability.
- With support from the University of Cape Town, four draft scenarios were developed depicting plausible futures in the Lesotho Highlands, serving as the basis for developing climate adaptation strategies.

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