

WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

ON

**THE CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP ON THE
DEVELOPMENT OF A FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION (FFA)
FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN VISION FOR WATER,
LIFE AND ENVIRONMENT FOR THE YEAR 2025**

by

National Organizing Committee

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Maseru Sun Cabanas Hotel, Maseru, Lesotho

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The consultative workshop to develop a national Framework For Action (FFA) for the Southern African Vision for Water, Life and Environment for the year 2025 for Lesotho was held in Maseru, Lesotho from the 15th to the 16th of September 2004. The Framework for Action is a plan or a road map through which the Southern African Water Vision will be achieved by both the Region and the Member States.

The workshop was supported by the Global Water Partnership–Southern Africa (GWP–SA) based in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The workshop was opened by the Commissioner of Water (COW), Mr. Manong Lesoma. The workshop was conducted through a series of paper presentations on the different Sub-Visions and then group works and discussions. The workshop programme is attached as **appendix 1**. The workshop therefore proceeded as follows:

2.0 WELCOME REMARKS

The Commissioner of Water welcomed all to the workshop and highlighted the need and importance of developing the national FFA for Lesotho. He stressed the importance and the relevance of the Vision and its eight Sub-Visions to Lesotho. He mentioned that papers will be presented on seven Sub-Visions except on a Sub-Vision of socio-economic development in Lesotho due to time constraints. He further urged all to join hands and show commitment in the process, so that by the year 2025 the set targets will be achieved for the betterment of the lives of the people of Lesotho. Mr. Lesoma also thanked GWP-SA for their support to this important process. Having wished the workshop fruitful deliberations, the Commissioner declared the workshop officially opened.

3.0 INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS

The participants were asked to introduce themselves. Notably, the participants were from a wide spectrum of sectors which included: NGOs Government Ministries and Departments, the Private Sector, Academic and Research Institutions, Media, Youth Groups, Parastatals, Cooperating Partners and GWP-SA. There were 62 participants in the workshop. A list of participants is attached as **appendix 9**.

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Objectives of the workshop and introduction to the FFA

The objectives of the workshop and introduction to the FFA process was presented by the Regional Water Expert, GWP – SA, Mr. Jean Boroto.

Mr. Boroto started by introducing the objectives of the workshop which are as follows:

- To develop a national FFA to give effect to the Vision (by 2025).
- To get country's inputs (for the region and for their own needs).

- To take into account existing initiatives.
- To mark the beginning of a living process.

In introducing the FFA, Mr. Boroto chronicled the process that was followed in the development of the Vision and the FFA. From the Southern African Region, SADC mandated GWP-SA to facilitate the development of the Vision. The Vision was finally approved by the SADC Ministers of Water in 1999. The Vision was presented to the 2nd World Water Forum at The Hague in the Netherlands in March 2000.

Mr. Boroto reminded the workshop about the mission and the goal of GWP. The mission is to support countries in the sustainable management of their water resources through Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). The goal is equitable & sustainable utilisation of water in southern Africa. He also mentioned that GWP has no mandate if it does not support SADC and government programmes.

The Southern African Vision is “Equitable and sustainable utilisation of water for social and environmental justice, regional integration and economic benefit for present and future generations.” The target date is 2025. He also discussed the eight sub-vision statements and they are as follows:

- Equitable and sustainable social and economic development in Southern Africa
- Equitable access to water of an acceptable quantity and quality
- Proper sanitation for all and safe waste disposal
- Food security for all households
- Energy security for all households
- A sustainable environment
- Security from natural disasters
- Integrated Water Resources Development and Management

He also informed the workshop about the following three activities in the FFA work plan: Information Dissemination; Development of a Regional FFA; and Development of Country FFAs. In developing the Regional FFA and Country FFAs, a first country coordinators workshop was held at the St. George Hotel in Pretoria, South Africa on the 27th to the 28th of January 2003. This workshop was attended by stakeholders from 11 countries. Participants included WRTC members (as government officials); Representatives from NGOs; and Private Sector.

Key issues identified for the FFA from the Workshop are as follows:

- Policy & Institutional arrangements for effective implementation of IWRM
- Effective Stakeholder participation
- Effective & reliable information system for the region
- Indicators and targets to achieve the Vision (*MDGs are a milestone...*).

- Understanding the economic value of water
- Regional strategy to recognise ecological and social issues
- Regional cooperation & management of shared watercourses

The following was agreed as a way forward from the workshop:

- Three countries, (Malawi, Mozambique & Tanzania) to serve as pilot cases with review of initiatives and in-depth consultations
- Other countries to hold (not in depth) consultations
- Country lessons to inform the regional FFA

He also briefed the workshop about the following progress made at both regional and country levels:

- Supporting studies have been completed and reports thereof are being edited for printing
- Second regional stakeholders FFA workshop was held back to back with the regional water policy workshop in April 2004
- The Regional FFA report is being finalised.
- For Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania, substantial progress towards producing countries FFAs have been made
- Consultations have been held in Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and DRC; and today: Lesotho
- Consultations are planned for, Namibia, Botswana, Angola and Mauritius.

The following lessons are emerging from the countries FFA consultation processes:

- Country Water Partnerships have provided an enabling environment
- Commitment of Government Departments has been crucial
- Ownership of FFA process at country level takes commitment and resources. It is also a process on its own.

The following were presented as the pointers towards the future and achieving the current programme by the end of the year:

- The Regional FFA report has to be completed. A drafting workshop is planned for 28-29 September 2004. A third Regional FFA workshop is planned for mid October 2004
- Consultations in all SADC countries need to be completed
- Three national FFAs in the pilot countries have to be complete as planned
- The FFA material (reports) have to be disseminated

The presentation also covered the following recent developments:

- WWF 2 - 2000
- Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) – 2000

- WSSD Resolutions (IWRM/WR Plans) – 2002
- FFA process – 2003/2004
- WWF3- 2003
- Regional Water Policy – 2003/2004
- IWRM Plans development - 2004 onwards. Funds are being secured for the development of national IWRM plans. IWRM plans will further unpack Country FFAs.
- Mid Term Review of RSAP – 2004
- Regional Water Strategy – 2004

Mr. Boroto also took the workshop through the Conceptual Framework for the SADC Regional Water Policy whose development has been fast tracked.

As a food for thought, Mr. Boroto mentioned that:

- The Vision has defined the objectives of the Regional Water Policy
- The Regional FFA will feed into the Regional Water Strategy (just like other processes or programmes such as the SADC Regional Strategic Action Plan for Integrated Water Resources Development and Management (RSAP)).

In concluding, the presenter highlighted the following:

- Today's consultations will assist Lesotho in assessing where it is and where it wants to be
- They will highlight the role that Lesotho can play on the regional water scene

Mr. Boroto also concluded by wishing the workshop fruitful deliberations for the next two days.

4.2 A SUB-VISION OF INTERGRATED WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

A paper on the sub-vision on integrated water resources development and management was presented by Ms Limpho Motanya, an Environmental Engineer on behalf of Mr. Mokake Mojakisane, the Director of the Department of Water Affairs. This paper is attached as **appendix 2**. Her presentation covered a number of issues with regard to integrated water resources development and management in Lesotho.

It was mentioned that it is imperative that there is a well coordinated approach towards water resources development and management in Lesotho.

Lesotho comprises three main catchments namely, Senqu, Phuthi and Makhaleng. Under normal conditions, a total of 170 m³/s is available as surface and groundwater from the three catchments. Most of the tributaries of the Senqu River originate in the highlands of the country as the wetlands areas. The Wetlands of Lesotho play a very major role in water resources availability in Lesotho as they also form the origins of the major rivers/tributaries that feed the Phuthi and the Makhaleng rivers in their respective catchments.

The extreme hydrological events such as floods and drought do occur in Lesotho. Droughts occur when water storage in streams, reservoirs, subsurface and groundwater are below normal such that the water supply may be unable to meet the demand. The main water users in Lesotho are the domestic, commercial, industrial and the agriculture. The environment is also recognized as another major user of water to sustain the lives that depend on it.

The stakeholders in the water sector in Lesotho comprises relevant government ministries/departments, parastatals, private sector, NGOs, community groups and youth groups which have a role to play on water resources management and water supply and sanitation services.

The General Management of water resources of Lesotho is done by the Ministry of Natural Resources through its Department of Water Affairs. The coordination of these activities with other related sectors is done through the office of the Commissioner of Water.

The Lesotho Water Resources Management Policy and Strategies (WRMPS), is the central instrument that provides the general framework for the Water Resources Development and Management in Lesotho. This Policy seeks to create an integrated and sound approach to the Management of Water Resources to ensure a sustainable development, adequate water supply and proper assessment and protection of water resources. The implementation of this policy is however still faced with challenges regarding the institutionalisation of the appropriate legal framework to support the coordination and implementation of IWRM activities. There is need to improve the Water Resources act of 1978 to cater for the present status of water resources activities in Lesotho.

The duplication of efforts and existence of sole territories instead of an integrated approach results in poor conservation of water resources, conflicts in provision of water supply services, as well as poor allocation of water to meet the demand. The Ministry of Natural Resources through the office of the Commissioner of Water seeks to update the appropriate legal framework to support the WRMPS.

There is a need for the development of “Sub-Policies” to address the specific issues such as wetlands, water quality including the industrial effluent etc. There is dire need to implement the Industrial Wastewater Management Policy through its Framework for implementation. While the Policy document and the Policy implementation document exist, the implementation of such still lags behind. There is therefore a need for all role-players to play their roles through a coordinated effort.

A lot of work has begun in the water resources management in Lesotho. This includes the institutionalisation of the WRMP and Strategies, the Industrial Waste Water Management Policy and the framework for implementation. It is therefore a necessity to look at all other policies across other sectors, and the supporting legislations, compare, and

harmonize to remove the conflicting ideas where they exist. The following recommendations were made:

- Establishment of appropriate fora for discussion of pertinent issues eg. Water supply
- Audit of the capacity of various institutions in terms of resources (human, financial, technical)
- Sensitisation of stakeholders about the roles they play or could play in the execution of IWRM
- Development of a country IWRD&M with clear milestones and a feed back mechanism

4.3 A Sub-Vision of Equitable Access to Water of Acceptable Quality and Quantity For All

A paper on a sub-vision of Equitable Access to Water of Acceptable Quality and Quantity For All was presented by the Commissioner of Water, Mr. Manong Lesoma. His paper is attached as **appendix 3**. The paper covers the following main issues:

Water is important as a life supporter; an economic commodity; a resource for national, regional and international cooperation; and also a means of future conflicts if not managed well.

Lesotho recognises and is party to international and regional water initiatives such as the SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses which was developed in the year 2000; the Lesotho Highlands Water Project Treaty for the development of the Lesotho Highlands and transfer of water to South Africa for domestic and industrial use in the Gauteng province which was signed in 1986; the Orange-Senqu River Basin Commission (ORASECOM) which was established in the year 2000 to oversee the development and management of the Orange-Senqu River Basin shared by four countries namely: Lesotho, South Africa, Namibia and Botswana; and Other conventions such as the Aliwal North, the Helsinki rules, the Rio-De-Janeiro, and the Dublin principles.

The Lesotho's water resources have been allocated for among others, domestic uses; water supply and sanitation; socio-economic activities; industrial use; agricultural use; transfer to the Republic of South Africa; and for other uses including water for ecosystem development.

Challenges facing Water Sector in Lesotho include the need to: (i) create a bulk water supply authority (other providers in private sector will be created to distribute water); (ii) finalise the process of reforming the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA), in particular finalise a performance agreement to improve service delivery and efficiency in the new extended responsibilities; (iii) introduce a full cost recovery tariff structure; (iv) fast track implementation of the Water Resources Management and the Industrial Wastewater Management Policies; (v) formulate and develop a sanitation management strategy; and (vi) replace rural water supply infrastructure especially worn out systems

The water resources are relatively in abundance especially in the eastern part of Lesotho. However, annual variations in rainfall are considerable, and result in periods of drought for pastoral activities. This phenomenon does cause decline in agricultural production and short fall in water supply. Unfortunately, water is not in the same place as the potential consumer.

The Water Balance analysis in Lesotho indicates that water demand by 2034 will increase to between 5.18 – 8.10 m³/s for industrial development, domestic use, and irrigation. Although water is abundant, there is a great seasonality to many of the river flows, especially in the lowlands where many people live.

The water sector coordination and overseeing is done through implementation of the existing policies and legal frameworks. Legislation on water resources management is scattered, and needs to be indexed. The water resources Act # 22 of 1978 needs to be improved to enhance coordination and avoid duplication of efforts.

The domestic water supply is challenged by problems such as rapid population growth in the lowlands; limited investment in water storage and delivery; slow consolidation of extended and improved rural water supply schemes. The following water resources developments to address some of the problems are on-going: the Six Towns Water Supply Phase-II to augment water and sanitation facilities in Maputsoe, Mapoteng, T.Y., Roma, Morija, and Quthing; the Metolong Dam Project to augment the Maseru water supply and provide water to en-routine areas such as Mazenod, Matsieng, etc.; and the Lowlands Water Supply Project to supply water and sanitation facilities to the lowlands in Lesotho and RSA to some extent.

Other water resources developments include the Water Sector Improvement project to strengthen institutional capacity in the water sector and improve water reserves for peri-urban of Maseru. There are also occasional water releases from the Lesotho Highlands Water Project systems to augment water supply for the city of Maseru, and there is also a Village Water Supply Project to increase coverage of clean water in rural areas.

Lesotho's water quality is relatively good. However the following poses a threat to the quality of the water resources in Lesotho: diffuse sources of water pollution, unavailability of expertise, inadequate treatment of raw water, lack of a long-term strategic water quality monitoring, and a limited capacity in the field of water quality management.

There is also a need to develop and implement a strategic development plan on HIV and AIDs and it should include activities such as scaling-up the fight against HIV and AIDS, develop a concise legal framework to support all related efforts, establish a coordinating body, and core-stream HIV and AIDS into water sector policies and programmes.

In conclusion, Mr. Lesoma made the following remarks:

- Freshwater is the best gift that a citizen of Lesotho can bring

- All water related laws will be consolidated and harmonised with existing sector policies
- A great care will be taken to prevent overuse and abuse of Lesotho's precious water resources.

4.4 A Sub-Vision of Proper Sanitation for All and Safe Waste Management

A paper on the Sub-Vision of Proper Sanitation for All and Safe Waste Management was presented by Ms Palesa Mofosi, Environmental Engineer from the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. Her paper is attached as **appendix 4**.

However the following is the summary of the paper:

For Lesotho, the road ahead is still very long as access to sanitation is still very low both in the urban and rural settings and waste management both liquid and solid waste still leaves a lot to be desired. A lot of ground has already been covered but a lot more still has to be done in order to attain this vision.

In Lesotho like in all developing countries sanitation provision is faced with a number of problems and is lacking behind water supply in terms of coverage and resource allocation. The key issues relating to sanitation provision need immediate attention if the country is to rise to the challenge of adequate sanitation for all by 2025. In Lesotho the problems are made worse by increased urbanisation, which is a direct resultant of increased industrialization especially in Maseru the capital. The consequences of increased populations in the urban areas of Lesotho are that there is increased demand for services including water supply, sanitation, health and other related services. This means that the current sanitation service level and the infrastructure available are not able to cope with the increased demand. This is particularly true for the urban centres in Lesotho where the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) sewerage networks do not extend far enough to reach the increasing peri-urban population and the Urban Sanitation Improvement Team (USIT) services are beyond the reach of the urban poor. Where services have been provided by the two agencies, there is the added cost of emptying of the VIP latrines, conservancy and septic tanks at a cost that goes way beyond the affordability of the urban poor.

The Lesotho National sanitation programme dates back twenty years, it is sub-divided into urban and rural programmes that are implemented on national basis. The urban programme is implemented by two agencies, USIT and WASA. The rural programme is implemented through the National Rural Sanitation Programme (NRSP), which is housed within the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. There are a number of role-players within the sub- Sector including the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA); Non-Governmental Organisations notably the Christian Health Association of Lesotho (CHAL), the World Vision and the European Union funded Micro-Project Unit which implements sanitation projects through organizations such as PLENTY Lesotho and the Red Cross.

The main objective of sanitation provision in Lesotho is to reduce morbidity and mortality attributable to diseases associated with poor sanitation through health and hygiene promotion and the promotion of access to sanitary facilities by the community and promotion of environmental and personal hygiene.

4.5 A Sub-Vision of Energy Security For All

The paper was presented by Mr. Leloko Mokhutsoane, Senior Engineer, the Department of Energy. A paper is attached as **appendix 5**.

The presenter, Mr. Mokhutsoane, started his introduction by discussing the process that led to the now Department of Energy. He discussed The Lesotho Energy Master Plan – LEMP which was prepared in 1988 and updated in 1991. This plan was based on country's self sufficiency in energy so as to reduce dependency on South Africa.

Mr. Mokhutsoane cited the Lesotho Energy Policy which guides all the developments in the Sector. The Policy states that *Energy is available at affordable cost for effective and efficient service delivery, in environmentally sustainable manner*. He promptly linked the Policy with the regional Sub-vision

He discussed that energy in Lesotho is dominated by the biomass which accounts for 70% of the total energy consumption in the country and hinted that this situation does not lend much support to the development as these fuels are generally of low quality. Petroleum which is utilised mainly for transport sector and domestic heating (Paraffin) accounts for 20%. Coal is mainly used for domestic heating, commerce and industry and accounts for 5.2%. Electricity is utilised for industries and domestic purposes and accounts for 3.1% of the total energy consumption.

He said that Lesotho has the potential of hydropower of about 450MW but about 75MW have been developed from the Muela and 4 mini hydro power generation stations. Other energy sources like wind and solar still need to be developed and mechanisms for access by the poor to these clean power sources need to be explored.

The institutional set-up within the sector were discussed and include the following:

- Rural Electrification Unit
- Lesotho Electricity Unit
- Rural Electrification Working Group
- Ministry of Local Government
- National Rural Electrification Fund

Conclusively, Mr. Mokhutsoane said the biggest challenge in the Energy sector is how to improve access of wider portion of the population to clean energy.

4.6 A sub-Vision of A Sustainable Environment

A paper on a Sub-Vision of A Sustainable Environment was presented by Ms Limpho Motanya, an Environmental Engineer on behalf of the author, Mr. Lira Molapo, Senior Environmental Engineer, the National Environment Secretariat (NES). A full paper is attached as **appendix 6**.

The paper started by introducing water as a social and economic good. The uses could be described as consumptive and non-consumptive. The great deal of concern was placed on how this resource is being abused and rendered unfit for use by varying users.

The author related the national initiatives that are geared towards conserving the environment. These are the Lesotho National Vision for 2020, the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), the Water Resources Management Policy, the Environmental Policy, the Environment Act and the biodiversity conservation strategy that was formulated and published in 2000.

The author compared the Regional Water Vision with the National Policies, and below are the issues emanating from this comparison:

Poverty

The Sub-Vision has identified issues that are of relevance to Lesotho. The vicious cycle of poverty and environment has been discussed as one of key problems facing the region. The PSRP that will be finalised depicts that main threats to water quality emanate from poor disposal and limited access to sanitation.

Water for Environment

There is a need to recognize environment as a legitimate user of water. The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority has addressed this concern by carrying out studies to determine in-flow stream requirements for the rivers impounded by the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP).

Environmental degradation

A National Action Plan to implement the UN-Convention to combat desertification has been formulated. There are specific activities at national level like planting of trees and donga stabilization projects.

Biodiversity

The introduction of exotic tree species which tend to consume large volumes of water is a reality in the country.

Poor management of waste

There is a wanton disposal of waste without regard to proper assessment of suitability and long-term effects such a disposal may have on surface and ground water resources.

Legislative framework

The outdated laws need to be reviewed and deterrent penalties to defaulters needs to be introduced. The formulation of a legislation on hazardous chemicals and waste management is underway.

In conclusion, the author comments on projects that address the environmental concerns like the Maloti Drakensberg Conservation and Development Project and Conserving Mountain Biodiversity in Southern Lesotho.

The joint management of the Caledon river by Lesotho and South Africa could address some the environmental concerns according to the author.

4.7 A Sub-Vision of Security from Natural Disasters

A paper on a Sub-Vision of Security from Natural Disasters was presented by Ms. Lineo Mokitimi, Senior Economic Planner from the Disaster Management Authority (DMA). A full paper is attached as **appendix 7**.

She started by introducing the mission of the Authority as: *“To coordinate all disaster mitigation, preparedness and response measures”* She discussed the objectives of the Authority as:

- To reduce Lesotho’s vulnerability to prevalent or likely disasters in conjunction with other government’s departments, NGOs, UN agencies and other resident donors
- To enhance the country’s capability to contain or minimize the effects of disasters
- To provide disaster management training at central and district levels as well as other capacity building measures.
- To promote institutional and public awareness of disasters, their effects and likely relief operations

Ms Mokitimi said that the guiding documents with regard to disaster management are the Disaster Management Plan and the Manual approved in 1996; and also the Disaster Management Act of 1997.

The mainstream sectors within DMA at central level are Health and Nutrition, Water and Sanitation, Food and Logistics, Agriculture and Food Security, and Early Warning Unit. All these sectors are relevant to the FFA process.

She further singled-out the water and sanitation sector and elaborated on the working group in that Sector. The working group comprises the senior officials from:

- Department of Water Affairs
- Department of Rural Water Supply
- Water and Sewerage Authority
- Lesotho Meteorological Services
- Environmental Health

Ms. Mokitimi also discussed the types of the disasters that Lesotho is prone to. While focussing on the water sector, she informed the workshop that drought is the common disaster related to water. She then narrated the years when the drought was rife and mitigation measures that were taken in response.

She finally discussed the short falls in the Authority as:

- Lack of financial resources to implement proposed project
- Priority is given to relief over disaster risk reduction
- The disaster management plan and manual has neither been implemented nor reviewed.
- Decision making, financial resources and supplied are at central level, there when a disaster strikes in any of the districts it becomes tedious to access resources for immediate response.

4.8 A Sub-Vision of Food Security For All

A paper on the Sub-Vision of Food Security For All was presented by Mrs Mantho Motselebane, Director, Department of Planning, and Policy Analysis of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security. Her presentation is attached as **appendix 8**.

In her presentation, Mrs Motselebane gave general definitions of key terms, thus, Food Security, Food insecurity and Vulnerability, she then mentioned the key dimensions of food security to poverty.

The presenter highlighted the current situation of food security in the country including variations in relation to factors that aggravate food insecurity incidences such as gender, livelihood patterns, access to basic services, and geographical location. She further mentioned categories of people most vulnerable to food insecurity.

Mrs. Motselebane further highlighted the percentage contribution of agriculture to GDP between years 1994 and 2003 (ranging between 18.2 and 17.3). She took the workshop through the Agriculture Sector Strategy (2003) which states that the aggregate trends in production have been rising, even though trends in areas planted, yields and production vary amongst the staple crops. On the other hand according to the 2004 vulnerability assessment committee, household purchasing power has eroded with high prices of staple foods.

The presenter also mentioned a number of constraints as follows:

- Poor Crop yield
- Land degradation including decline in soil fertility
- High post-harvest crop loss
- Unsuitable land use
- Poor crop and livestock husbandry
- Poor water control
- Inadequate marketing structures

- Inadequate research and extension services
- Lack of credit facilities for farmers

She further introduced the following future plans, strategies, programmes and institutional reforms:

- Implementation of block farming, small scale irrigation and special programmes for food security in both crops and livestock
- Implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Programme (PRSP)
- Implementation of the Agricultural Sector Strategy which has been broken into short-term, mid-term and long-term objectives for sustainable, and efficient agricultural production.

The following were mentioned by the presenter as the contribution of Lesotho towards the achievement of the Regional Water Vision:

- Sustainable agricultural financing and investment
- Improved crop and livestock and crop production
- Water resources development and management for promoting irrigated agriculture
- Improved access to key agricultural inputs
- Sustainable utilisation of natural resources
- Strengthening of research-extension-farmer linkages
- Enhanced access to food

In conclusion, Mrs Motselebane mentioned that Lesotho is committed to international declarations such as world food summit goals, MDGs, NEPAD goals and SADC Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security. The Agriculture Sector Strategy is being used as a vehicle for revamping agriculture output and food security. The Government is intensifying efforts to address chronic food insecurity so that the number of the hungry is reduced and incomes improved with a view to overcoming the problem of poverty. Monitoring and progress reporting mechanisms are in place. Additional resources and team work with all stakeholders are a necessity for achieving sustainable food security for all.

5.0 QUESTIONS, CLARIFICATIONS AND COMMENTS ON THE PRESENTATIONS

Following are the questions, clarifications and comments that were made by the participants on the presentations discussed under chapter 4 above; and the respective responses:

Sub-vision on Sanitation and Waste Management

A comment was made on the Sanitation sub sector that WHO has the role of setting standards. It was cited that projects like Africa 2000 Initiative and programmes like Preventive Measures could be beneficial in unison with the Ministry of Health.

Sub-vision on Integrated Water Resources Development and Management

- Q. Is there any coordination amongst the role players in the implementation of the IWRM ?
- R. The office of the Commission of Water is in place to coordinate. However, the supporting office of Policy, Planning and Strategy Unit is still to be staffed properly.
- Q. Where does the Lesotho Highlands Water Commission appear on the structure of the Ministry of Natural Resources Structure?
- R. This once appeared in the structure but was opted out of the structure by the Commission itself. However, in practice the office still reports to the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources presented.
- Q. There was a concern about privatisation of water and there was a recommendation that the proper terminology like water reform process be used.
- R. In response, CoW agreed that the process could better be described as reforms.
- Q. Are there any awareness campaigns especially to grass roots level regarding wetlands degradation?
- R. The new Unit called Wetlands Unit has been formed in the Department of Water Affairs and the wetlands management programme has been drafted.

Comment

The issue of tariffs in water that are aimed to recover the costs of construction, operation and maintenance of water supply and sanitation infrastructure should consider the social aspects and the government's obligation to serve people with water than to focus on cost recovery.

Sub-vision on Sanitation and Waste Management

- Q Has the Tsolo dumping site been officially designated as the dumping site and have the surveys for suitability been carried out?
- R The relevant authorities have not approved the site.

Sub-vision on Energy

- Q. Where does the Muela Hydro power generation plant fall under the on-going process of privatising the Lesotho Electricity Corporation?
- R. In response, the Department of Energy informed the same that the Muela hydropower generation plant is not part of the privatisation of LEC.
- Q. Are there any awareness campaigns or promotions towards Bio-gas technology?

- R. The Bio-gas technology could not be implemented based on the scarcity of water, and in most cases, water is scarce where the technology could be piloted.

Sub-vision on Disaster Management

Comment: It was observed that the DMA is seemingly ready to assist in the disasters to the regional proportions. This totally negates their apparent disabilities to cope with the country disasters. It was then recommended that the DMA should capacitate its districts offices to deal with national or local disasters.

Comment: The large dams in Lesotho (Katse, Mohale, Muela) should have the disaster management plan.

- Q. Has the Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) been piloted or tested anywhere in the country?
- R. A few examples such as a dummy car crash at the Pope John Paul podium was quoted.

Sub-vision on Food Security

- Q. The deregulation of prices especially of maize has proved problematic to the aspiring local farmers. Why allow this shortcoming? Does this help in food security?
- R. This is the resolution by the government in view of the regional free trade policies that Lesotho is a signatory to.
- Q. Live stock theft is rife and this has unbecoming effects on production of agricultural produce. Can food security be achieved with this social scourge?
- R. The issue of stock theft lies directly with the Ministry of Home Affairs and this social scourge cannot be solved by ministry of Food Security

Comment: The occurring natural process like Climate Change should be taken into account. This issue was considered important and the Lesotho Meteorological Services should be consulted from time to time on this occurrence.

- Q. Is there any hope of re-establishing the Development Banks like the defunct Agricultural Bank as the current commercial banks offer expensive services?

- R. Establishment of such institutions seem not to be sustainable. Hence Government is more inclined towards commercialization of lending institutions.
- Q. How much water is required for the irrigable land in Lesotho? Also are there any lessons learned from the past small scale irrigation schemes?
- R. The studies are on-going that will accurately assess the irrigable land. The experiences of failed irrigation schemes have compelled the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security to seek new strategies and formulate appropriate irrigation policies.

6.0 INTRODUCTION TO GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Four groups, each dealing with at least one sub-vision statement were formed. Groups were given 2½ hours of discussion and preparation of presentations. Counting from 1 to 4 was used to form groups. Each group had a chairperson, and a rapporteur. Following is a table showing groups and their themes of discussion:

GROUP	SUB-VISION 1	SUB-VISION 2
1	Integrated Water Resources Development and Management	
2	Equitable Access to Water of Acceptable Quality and Quantity for All	Proper Sanitation for All and Safe Waste Management
3	Sustainable Environment	Energy Security for All
4	Security from Natural Disasters	Food Security for All

The following were the guidelines for group discussions:

- What is the current situation in Lesotho with regard to the Sub-Vision?
- What are the short falls or gaps?
- What are the possible ways/plans which will contribute to addressing the short falls thus achieving this Sub-Vision (any projects, programmes, institutional reforms, strategies, etc)?
- Who are the critical actors to achieve this Sub-Vision?
- How can Lesotho contribute to the achievement of this Sub-Vision at the Regional Level?

7.0 GROUPS REPORT BACK AND PLENARY DISCUSSION

Groups reported their group work and deliberations to the plenary as follows:

Group 1

INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

CURRENT SITUATION IN LESOTHO

- Water Resources Management Policy addresses IWRM principles No. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

SHORT FALLS OR GAPS

- Lack of capacity within the Water sector departments
- Lack of integrated planning within the ministries and among water sector departments
- Licensing not properly coordinated
- Obsolete legislation
- Harmonization of all policies and legal frameworks
- Poor catchment management
- No information sharing and public participation
- Lack of integrated implementation strategies for water and sanitation efforts

WAYS CONTRIBUTING TO ADDRESS SHORT FALLS

- Strengthening of water and sanitation sector institutions
- Promote development of integrated water resources development and management strategies
- Establishing of well-coordinated and accessible water resources information systems
- Revision and harmonisation of obsolete legislature
- Formation of catchment management authorities
- Integration of water and sanitation implementation programmes

CRITICAL ACTORS

- COW AND SECTOR DEPARTMENTS
- Ministry of Development Planning and MNR
- MNR
- COW and Law Reform
- COW AND Law Reform
- DWA, agric, Forestry and local government
- COW
- MNR and Health

LESOTHO'S CONTRIBUTION AT REGIONAL LEVEL

- Sharing its experiences in the regional forum
- NUL to provide regional resources programme

Group 2

EQUATABLE ACCESS TO WATER OF ACCEPTABLE QUALITY AND QUANTITY FOR ALL

CURRENT SITUATION IN LESOTHO

- Improper allocation of water resources
- Fragmented coordination of water sector activities
- Limited capacity of water institutions
- Weak legal framework

EQUITABLE ACCESS

- What is equity?
 - Quantity- per capita quota
 - Water uses
 - Services provided
 - Access to water

SHORTFALLS

- Slow implementation of the water resource management policy
- Threatened quality of water resources
- Limited capacity in key institutions

PLANS TO ADDRESS SHORTFALLS

- Implementation of water resource management act
- Water sector improvement project

CRITICAL ACTORS

- Commissioner of water
- PPSU
- Other institutions
 - WASA
 - DWRS

ACHIEVEMENT OF SUB-VISION BY LESOTHO

- Adapt the water and sanitation regional plan

PROPER SANITATION FOR ALL AND SAFE WASTE MANAGEMENT

CURRENT SITUATION IN LESOTHO

- Lack of coherent policy
- Land use plans and their implementations
- Lack of awareness and acceptance of sanitation facilities

SHORTFALLS

- Lack of political will
- Lack of co-ordination among key stakeholders
- Limited Capacity

ADDRESSING SHORTFALLS

- Institutional reform
 - Solid waste management body
 - Liquid waste management body

CRITICAL ACTORS

- NES
- MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCE
- MINISTRY OF HEALTH
- MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
- CIVIL SOCIETY
- PRIVATE SECTOR

CONTRIBUTION BY LESOTHO

- Adapt the regional water and sanitation plan

Group 3

ENVIRONMENT SUB-VISION

Defining environment: As the source of livelihood or medium for all life forms i.e. water, soil, forest including people. The main factor is the human being with potential to destroy or conserve. This is the sink socio economic, political development.

THE CURRENT SITUATION

- There is environmental degradation in forms
 - Degraded wetlands (source of water).
 - Polluted water (transboundary).
 - Centralized industrial effluent and solid waste
 - Laid degradation i.e. desertification and erosion
- This is a vicious cycle of poverty and environment degradation
 - Loss of bio-diversity and
 - Environment awareness and education to public at large insufficient

SHORTFALLS & GAPS

- Poor land use practices i.e. grazing, patterns, and overstocking, awareness .campaign to all current i.e. herders
- Lack of capacity building at the relevant Civils up to community based organizations
- Lack of coordination amongst the stakeholders e.g. LNDC, DWA, NES, TRADE, MOLG.
- Non compliance and poor enforcement mechanisms – no implementation i.e. toothless dogs
- Lack of National Standards – lack of infrastructure for testing purposes. Existing facilities are small i.e. DWA
- Lack of sanitary land fills and poor industrialization planning
- Lack of coordinated land patterns/practices
- Environmental education at all levels is in antique
- Bio-diversity is cross cutting issues to the above gaps/shortfall

POSSIBLE WAYS/PLANS

- Creation of milestones with the existing strategies
- Holistic approach to all stakeholders especially the ministries for monitoring and compliance
- Build capacity of the role players

CRITICAL ACTORS

- All stakeholders i.e. CBO's, Local Government, Energy, DWA, WASA, NES, LHDA, TRADE, INDUSTRIALISTS etc.

CONTRIBUTION OF LESOTHO TO THE REGIONAL VISION

- The strategies, policies and legislation should be tailored to address the Regional Vision For Water, Life and Environment by 2025

ENERGY SECURITY FOR ALL

THE CURRENT SITUATION

- Household energy heavily depends on bio-mass.
- Bio-mass composes the largest energy source in the country
- There are several institutional reforms taking place within the energy sector i.e. privatization of LEC, establishment of Rural Electrification Unit.
- Lesotho has immense potential for hydropower
- General public has shown significant interest in cleaner energy sources
- There is abundant solar resources

SHORTFALLS & GAPS

- No financing mechanisms for the poor i.e. subsidy
- Inefficiency in service delivery – especially LEC

POSSIBLE WAYS/PLANS

- Establishment of viable financing mechanisms
- Lesotho Authority Act now make provision for other actors to take part in the energy sector
- The proposed rural electrification fund must be operationalised soonest
- Increase generation capacity using different sources e.g. solar, wind power, etc.

CRITICAL ACTORS

- Government – DOE, FINANCE, NATURAL RESOURCES, NES
- Consumers
- Private Sectors
- NGO's

CONTRIBUTION OF LESOTHO TO THE REGIONAL VISION

- The nation vision i.e. Energy shall be universally accessible and affordable in a sustainable manner with minimum impact, on the environment. This is in harmony with the Regional Vision. Hence the national policies, strategies and institutional reforms must be also be in harmony

Group 4

FOOD SECURITY FOR ALL

THE CURRENT SITUATION

- No food security

SHORTFALLS & GAPS

- No policy for food security
- Land Management
 - Degradation due to soil loss and vegetal cover leads to low water holding capacity
 - lack of co-operation between water sector and Agric sector
- Absence of clear land allocation Policies (settlement, farming)
- Poor distribution of extension services
- Cooperative movements and credit unions lack proper support from Govt in terms of subsidies
- Increasing livestock theft
- Lack of active participation of NGOs and CBOs

POSSIBLE WAYS/PLANS

- Develop clear and comprehensive Policy on food security
- Formulate and implement legal framework for wider involvement of local NGOs & Community Based Organizations, cooperatives in land management
- Establish sound coordination between Water sector & Agric sector
- Involvement of all stakeholders in land allocation
- Strengthen and motivate extension services
- Encourage and support cooperative movements and credit Unions
- Develop appropriate preventative measures to curb stock theft
- Create conducive atmosphere to allow active participation of NGOs & CBOs

CRITICAL ACTORS

- The Communities
- NGOs & CBOs
- Farmers
- Private Sector
- All Ministries
- Donor Community

CONTRIBUTION OF LESOTHO TO THE REGIONAL VISION

- Information sharing
- Seconding of skilled personnel

SECURITY FROM NATURAL DISASTERS FOR ALL

THE CURRENT SITUATION

- National Policy on Natural Disaster non existing

SHORTFALLS & GAPS

- Acute shortage of essential resources
- Centralization of services
- Poor databases on occurred incidents
- Lack of forecasting systems; hence poor responses
- Lack of coordination between DMA and other relief Agencies plus GoVt departments

POSSIBLE WAYS/PLANS

- Formulate and Implement Disaster Management Policy
- Provide adequate resources
- Decentralize services to various districts
- Establish database management and appropriate forecasting system
- Establish proper procedure to enhance strong coordination

CRITICAL ACTORS

- NGOs & CBOs
- All Govt Ministries
- Donor Community
- All people

CONTRIBUTION OF LESOTHO TO THE REGIONAL VISION

- Information sharing

8.0 DISCUSSIONS ON GROUP PRESENTATIONS

The following contributions and inputs were made to the group presentations:

- Implement all the strategies aimed at giving effect to the Water Resources Management Policy
- The Maseru City Council be included on projects, programmes and activities on safe waste management
- Rural Sanitation should also be given priority

- Long-term weather forecasting with short to medium weather updates are seen as strategic in improving security from Natural Disasters
- Policy pronouncements relevant to the Sub-Visions have been included in the Lesotho National Vision for the year 2020 & the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
- Integrated approach and strategic planning should be adopted by all sectors
- A national policy on disaster management should be developed
- The importance of the contribution of rainfall across sectors such as food security and water was highlighted. Multisectoral planning is therefore essential
- It was confirmed that a landfill site has been identified at the area near the Tsoeneng Village, a few kilometers from Maseru. However a temporary arrangement has been made with South Africa for the disposal of the sludge from the industries
- Crops favourable for certain areas be encouraged
- Food security should be diversified to include, among others, importation of food staff from others

9.0 WAY FORWARD

The following were agreed as a way forward:

- Look at overlaps on definitions of, for instance, food security
- The Lesotho Youth Water Action Team (LEYWAT) will be celebrating a WASH campaign in October 2004 in Maputsoe, in the Leribe District. Dates will be communicated to the participants
- Gaps, overlaps and shortfalls in existing sectoral policies be identified and the overall implementation of the policies be accelerated. There should also be a regular feedback with regard to the implementation of the policies
- There is a need to develop IWRM plans
- Implementation of the recommendations from today's workshop on the development of the Lesotho National FFA should be reported back to the stakeholders on a regular basis

10.0 Closing Remarks

10.1 In his closing remarks and on behalf of the Commissioner of Water, the Director of the Department of Water Affairs, Mr. Mojakisane thanked all the participants for their continued commitment during the duration of the workshop. He stressed that was a good sign of ownership of the process. Having said these few remarks, he then invited Mr. Jean Boroto from the Global Water Partnership-Southern Africa to give his remarks.

10.2 In his closing remarks, Mr. Boroto mentioned that the turn up to this workshop was very good and congratulated Lesotho for this. The importance of an integrated approach towards developing and implementing the FFA cannot be over-emphasised. He also mentioned that GWP-SA will provide any necessary support to Lesotho throughout further stages of developing and implementing the FFA. He mentioned that that resources

are being mobilized for developing national IWRM plans. He mentioned that a Regional workshop is planned for mid October aiming at finalizing the Regional FFA report.