GEF SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM – LESOTHO

Country Programme Strategy for OP6

2015 – 2018

JULY 2016

Abbreviations and acronyms

ABS	Access Benefit Sharing
CA	Conservation Agriculture
CBO	Community Based Organization
CPS	Country Program Strategy
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GA	Grazing Association
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
ICM	Integrated Catchment Management
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
LCC	Local Community Council LDCF Least Developed Country Fund
LENAFU	Lesotho National Farmers Union
LHDA	Lesotho Highlands Development Authority
LHWP	Lesotho Highlands Water Project
MAFS	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
MDTP	Maloti Drakensburg Transfrontier Development Project
MEA	Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements
MFRSC	Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation
MOET	Ministry of Education and Training
MRA	Managed Resource Area
MTEC	Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture
NAMA	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions
NAP	National Action Programme
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NC	National Committee
NCS	National Communication Strategy
NCSA	National Capacity Self-Assessment
NFCCC	United National Framework Convention on Climate Change
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIP	National Implementation Plan
NPFE	National Portfolio Formulation Exercise
NSC	National Steering Committee
NSDP	National Strategic Development Plan
NUL	National University of Lesotho
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
RMA	Range Management Association
RSDA	Rural Self Help Organization
SEA4ALL	Sustainable Energy for All
SGP OP6	Small Grants Program Sixth Operational Phase

SGP	Small Grants Program
SRB	Senqu River Basin
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDAF	United National Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCO	United National Environment, Social and Cultural Organization
USAID	United States Aid for International Development

Contents

SGP COUNTRY PROGRAM STRATEGY FOR OP6

Country: Kingdom of Lesotho

OP6 resources (estimated): US$1,161,800.00[1]

[1] See Table of resources for details

OP6 Resources (in USD)				
Funding Source	**Secured**	**Projected**		**Total Estimated**
GEF SGP CORE	400,000.00	-		400,000.00
National Steering Committee and Technical Working Groups[2]	30,000.00	-		30,000.00
SE4ALL		4,000.00[3]		4,000.00
Ecosystem-based Adaptation Project	-	2,800.00[4]		2,800.00
National University of Lesotho[5]	50, 000.00	-		50,000.00
SGP Partnership Programmes				
COMPACT				
UNESCO World Heritage Centre	35, 000.00	500,000.00		535,000.00
Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Development Project (MDTP)	-	5,000.00		5,000.00
Ministry of Tourism, Environment & Culture (MTEC)	-	5,000.00		5,000.00
UNDP Lesotho	-	10,000.00		10,000.00
Government				
Department of Water Affairs – Integrated Catchment Management Project[6]	-	40,000.00		40,000.00
		Cash	***In-kind***	
Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation – Range Resources Management[7]	-	-	50,000.00[8]	50,000.00
	-			
Ministry of Agriculture	-	-	20,000.00[9]	20,000.00
Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture	-	-	10,000.00[10]	10,000.00
TOTAL REQUIRED FOR OP 6				**1,161,800.00**

2 Time volunteered to programme for strategizing, proposals reviews and project monitoring visits.

3 1% of total project funds

4 1 % of total project funds for SGP projects within project site

5 Volunteer technical and professional time in terms of the signed memorandum of intend with UN Agencies. 2016.

6 10% of total project funds through support to local communities to respond to calls for proposals both within and outside selected landscapes

7 Monetary value estimated as per our targets: Tree seedlings, grass seed, Bamboo seedlings etc.

8 Monetary value for Training and technical backstopping, extension services

9 Training and extension services

10 Training and technical backstopping

1. SGP country program - summary background

The project portfolio has grown steadily from 17 in OP4 to 49 by end of OP5 in December 2014. In addition, the awareness of the environment and the challenges facing the country grew and more CSOs became aware of and sought to access the SGP. The Program, now in its 8th year (2008 – 2015), has traversed seven (7) grant making cycles and has to date registered 49 community project grants with over USD 1.7 million awarded in grants to local communities through non-governmental and community based organizations (NGOs and CBOs). In contrast to OP4, the distribution of grant awards in OP5 improved significantly across all focal areas. While projects are still skewed towards land degradation and biodiversity conservation, there was a welcome participation of climate change mitigation, chemical management and wetlands rehabilitation projects (Table 1).

Table 1. Distribution of project grants for each focal area by agro-ecological zone. Source: Project Portfolio. 2014 - GEF SGP Office. UNDP. Lesotho.

GEF Focal Areas		Number of Projects per Agro-Ecological Zone		
	Lowlands	Foothills	Mountains	Senqu River
Biodiversity	4	3	2	2
Climate change	8	3	1	-
Protection of waters & wetlands	-	-	1	-
Land degradation	3	3	9	-
Chemical hazards (POPs)	3	-	1	-
MF	2	2	-	-
CD	1	-	-	-

The SGP has contributed to the establishment of community botanical gardens, increased awareness of renewable energy technologies and enhanced the capacity of NGOs and CBOs in project development and management. The program has had a notable effect on soil and water conservation, and has seen more than 50 species of plants conserved and protected. In addition, over 4 500 recipients have benefitted in a variety of ways, developing skills in construction and maintenance of biogas digesters, poultry production, plant propagation and production of crafts from waste paper and plastic. The breeding of indigenous chickens to enhance the success of other poultry initiatives has the potential to be up-scaled and replicated.

Efforts for fund-raising, particularly at Country Program level, have not yielded much during this period. Most of the co-financing is in the form of in-kind contribution and the bulk of it is at project level. Nonetheless, a number of contacts have been established with some embassies through facilitation of the Offices of the Resident Representative and Deputy Resident Representative of the UNDP Country Office in Lesotho. Furthermore, active participation of the GEF-SGP Team in the Lesotho UNDAF review process is an inroad for raising the needed co-financing for the Country Program. To date the Japanese Embassy,

through the influence of the UNDP CO and SGP Secretariat facilitation has funded solar energy and water harvesting components of the indigenous chickens' project.

2.0 SGP country program niche

2.1 Multi-lateral Environmental Conventions

Lesotho is party to multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and it has elaborated strategies, action plans and programs to facilitate their implementation. These elaborations have recommendations on priority areas of action and institutional arrangements for implementation of the proposed interventions. Of relevance are the following which are directly related to GEF focal areas and operational programs (Table 2):

Table 2. List of relevant conventions and national/regional plans or programs

Rio Conventions + national planning frameworks		**Date of ratification / completion**
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)		1995
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)		2000
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)		
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)		1996
UNFCCC National Communications	1st National Communication	2000
	2nd National Communication	2013
	3rd National Communication	Process started in 2015 and is on-going
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)		
UN Convention to Combat Désertification (UNCCD)		1995
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	Completed in 1999 and reviewed in 2005 to align it with major national policies	2005
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)		
SC National Implémentation Plan (NIP)		
Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)		2005
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)		2007
GEF-6 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)		
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies[11]	Development and adoption of a Strategic Action Programme for balancing water uses and sustainable natural resource management in the Orange-Senqu River transboundary basin	2009 - 2014
Minamata Convention on Mercury		2014

[11] Please identify existing regional projects and the regional SAPs adopted by countries sharing international waterbodies. Please check this website to find some of the SAPs: http://iwlearn.net/publications/SAP

2.2 Complementarities Between the SGP-OP6 Country Program and National Priorities

The national challenges and priorities outlined in the NSDP 2012-2017 with respect to reversing environmental degradation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, agriculture and rural economy, forestry and range resources, water resources read together with the goals and aspirations of the line Ministries of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS); Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation (MFRSC); Water; Environment could use the grassroots approach entrenched in the SGP concept and the priorities areas of OP6 in relation to reducing environment impacts of agriculture while sustainably maintaining the production and productivity of ecosystems. Lesotho land area is mainly dedicated to farming to sustain smallholder farmers and households in rural areas where livestock production in communal rangelands and arable farming and related activities occupy over 90 percent of the land use. One of the strategic initiatives in OP6 is climate-smart innovative agro-ecology. This initiative will target geographical areas that show declining productivity as a result of human induced land degrading practices and the impact of climate change by working in buffer zones of identified critical ecosystems, as well as in forest corridors. This is synergetic to the goals and aspirations of the Kingdom of Lesotho outline in all strategic documents of the line ministries outlined above. Furthermore, the letter and spirit of NSDP 2012-2017 talks to the essence of the "Community Development and Knowledge Management Initiative" which supports local community activities to maintain and, where necessary, rebuild socio-ecological production landscapes, and to collect and disseminate knowledge and experiences from successful on-the-ground actions for dissemination and adaptation to other smallholder organizations in other landscapes and regions of the world. In OP6, landscape strategies are developed with four outcomes, one of which addresses agro-ecosystem resilience, while aiming at improving food security and stabilizing and improving ecosystem services. The SGP experiences in Lesotho over the last 8 years taken together with on-going national programs across the key line ministries will create synergy to deliver sustainable livelihoods.

The baseline sustainability assessment over the selected landscapes for OP6 programming will inform national planning and disaster risk reduction strategy by identifying systems that have withstood climatic events recently or in the past, to assess the level of vulnerability of a range of farming systems to such events, but more importantly to understand the agro-ecological features that allowed some of these farms to resist and/or recover from droughts, storms, or floods. The derived resilience principles can then be disseminated to family farmers in neighboring communities and others in the region via field days, cross-visits, and other farmer to farmer mechanisms. The main goal of these activities is to explain farmers how

to assess the level of vulnerability of each farm and then explore ways to enhance via agro-ecological practices the resiliency of farms to both drought and strong storms.

Basotho communities in rural watersheds /landscapes face great challenges in adapting to rapid environmental and socio-economic changes including climate variability and economic pressures which lead to environmental degradation, thus limiting the capabilities of local populations to meet their food security needs and livelihood requirements. Agro-ecology as proposed in OP6, provides the basis for a holistic approach to landscape design in which farming systems are optimized considering the ecological potential and the physical limits of the landscape. In the case of Lesotho's highly degraded landscapes it is essential to conduct restoration strategies aimed at assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged or destroyed. The SGP provides funding at the strategic community and CSO level to implement agro-ecological strategies aimed at managing landscapes such that original biodiversity may be recovered and the protective function and many of the original ecological services may be re-established. SGP provides the resources and capacity building to enable farmers and their farming systems to respond creatively and adaptively to environmental change. The ultimate goal of OP6 strategy is to knit together agro-ecosystems within a landscape unit, with each system mimicking, in the best way possible, the structure and function of natural ecosystems. This is in line with the integrated catchment management strategies in the Land Reclamation Program of MFRSC. Restoring ecological services in farms involves using various plant diversification schemes at the farm level (poly-cultures, rotations, cover crops, agroforestry.) and at the landscape level (rangelands, forests, croplands) which bring back the components of a functional biodiversity necessary for maintaining ecological functions. This is also in line with the conservation agriculture initiative currently supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security in collaboration with NGOs and the FAO in Lesotho. Thus the SGP-OP6 will provide resources, theory and principles to restore biodiversity in farming systems embedded in production landscapes while restoration and conservation of biodiversity through diversification strategies will enhance functional biodiversity which in turn provide ecosystem services key for landscape integrity and agro-ecosystem productivity as envisioned in the various national strategies.

Hitherto, overall guidance to the Country Program is provided by a National Steering Committee (NSC) comprising representation from civil society, academia, National GEF Focal Point, convention focal points, the private sector and the UNDP Country Office for Lesotho, with more than 50% coming from the civil society organizations (CSOs). Going forward into OP6, this structure will be maintained. The key line ministries of government and their local structures will be partners in all new projects to ensure facilitate the integration of projects into on-going development work and coordination of projects across the landscape. All focal points and implementation institutions of government for relevant global conventions

will be integrated into the stakeholder fora for monitoring and evaluation of project performance. Table 3 outlines a summary of SGP-OP6 contributions to national priorities.

Table 3. SGP contribution to national priorities / GEF-6 corporate results		
GEF-6 corporate results	**SGP Strategic Initiatives**	**SGP niche : National Priorities**
Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Community Landscape Conservation	Lesotho has three main areas of concern in terms of protection, preservation, conservation and sustainable use of its biological resources and as a consequence its biodiversity. These are establishment of an ecosystem based protected area system, public education and awareness of biodiversity issues and increased capacity for nature and biodiversity conservation. The establishment of protected areas beyond the presently established areas is a priority of the Government of Lesotho. Public involvement in matters that affect them, especially in natural resource management is a priority of the Government of Lesotho. The ability to conserve and sustainably use biological components by Basotho is also a priority area.
Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	Innovative Climate Smart Agro-Ecology; Community Landscape Conservation	Lesotho has prioritized efforts to encourage farmers to incorporate conservation techniques, range management practices, incorporate agro-forestry practices into all scales of farming systems, promote tree planting and vegetative cover activities, construction of storm diversion ditches, silt traps and tree planting to rehabilitate degraded land, as well as harness water resources from streams and drains by constructing dams and establishing nurseries and permanent sample plots in woodlots. The high dependence of communities living in the Lesotho highlands on rain fed agriculture, the prevalence of poverty and food insecurity, and limited development of institutional and infrastructural capacities make coping with natural climate variability a perennial challenge. This challenge is being magnified by global climate change. These problems can exacerbate and be exacerbated by land degradation. Land degradation is not an inevitable result of climate variability and change, however, much depends upon how land resource users respond to climate changes. Sustainable Land Management strategies and practices enable farmers and communities to adapt, as well as become more resilient, to climate change by increasing food production, conserving soil and water, enhancing food security and restoring productive natural resources.
Promotion of collective management of trans-boundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services	Community Landscape Conservation	The long-term development/environmental goal of Lesotho in respect of the upper Orange-Senqu basin is to ensure sustainable development of the Orange-Senqu River Basin being through ecosystem-based, integrated water resource management approaches. Five priority transboundary problems affect the Orange-Senqu River Basin: i) Stress on surface and groundwater resources; ii) Altered water flow regime; iii) Deteriorating water quality (surface and groundwater); iv) Land degradation; and v) Alien invasives. The SGP-OP6 strategy is critically relevant to the solution of these problems at the landscape level in rural communities.

Table 3. SGP contribution to national priorities / GEF-6 corporate results		
GEF-6 corporate results	**SGP Strategic Initiatives**	**SGP niche : National Priorities**
Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	Energy Access Co-Benefits	This is compliant with the Lesotho's goals under the mitigation scenario in the energy sector in relation to the implementation of Lesotho Energy Policy 2015 and Draft Lesotho Renewable Energy Policy 2013 which seek to increase energy efficiency significantly and shift the energy supply to more climate friendly technologies.
Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern	Local to Global Chemicals Coalitions	In the strictest of terms, concerns regarding chemicals management are narrow and do not sound as aggravating. However, there is an increasing concern in Lesotho regarding industrial effluents and chemical waste generated across the economy. Many of the POPs have found wide use as pesticides and other agro-chemicals. Some are used as heat resistant dielectrics in electrical equipment such as transformers and capacitors. Dioxins and Furans are a category of POPs that are produced as by-products of incomplete combustion and chemical processes. Raising the awareness of rural community in matters of handling, management and disposal is a critical priority in Lesotho.
Enhance capacity of countries to implement MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and mainstream into national and sub-national policy, planning financial and legal frameworks	All areas, in particular CSO-Govt. dialogues, KM Platforms	A comprehensive assessment of the existing capacities and capacity development needs of Lesotho in meeting the obligations of the five Multilateral Environmental Agreements was conducted in 2005. The following actions were recommended to enhance capacity in environmental management at systemic, institutional and individual levels across the economy: i) Development and enhancement of policy and legislative environment that supports the implementation of the MEAs; ii) Integration of MEA objectives into National and Local development planning and implementation; iii) Institutional mandates for the MEAs and promotion of synergistic approach in implementation; iv) Promoting awareness on the contents and context of the MEAs; v) Increasing research and monitoring capacity; vi) Addressing human resources issues in the implementing and partner institutions; and vii) Improvement of institutional capacity for the implementation of activities related to the MEAs.

2.3 Complementarities and Synergy with UNDP CO/UN System strategies (CPD, UNDAF)

The UN System in Lesotho formulated and adopted a framework called United Nations Development assistance Framework (UNDF): 2013 – 2017 as the overall context for coordinating and collaborating on its development assistance activities in Lesotho. This framework is consistent with the aspirations of the OP6 program in terms of the PRS priority cluster related to sustained economic growth, poverty reduction and environmental management *to be* achieved by pursuing four country program outcomes. The first outcome focuses on ensuring that national capacity is strengthened to create gender sensitive employment opportunities with emphasis on women and youth. Some of the *outputs* that will serve as vehicles for pursuing this country program outcome include: supporting the adoption and implementation of national policies for youth employment; and supporting capacity building in agricultural enterprises in order to enhance opportunities for rural employment and income generation.

The second will ensure that agricultural productivity is increased and food security improved. Specific outputs that will contribute to this outcome are: farmland productivity and production increases through the adoption of innovative agricultural technologies, improved land management practices and the promotion of appropriate irrigation and water harvesting technologies; improvements in communal land productivity through implementation of integrated watershed management programs; and dietary diversity as well as increased production and consumption of micro-nutrient rich crops.

The third outcome relevant to the OP6 focuses on achieving strengthened policy and institutional capacities related to improving natural resource and environmental management through supporting: the development and implementation of frameworks such as the global convention on climate change for sustainable development; capacity strengthening of local structures for sustainable management of land as well as the urban environment; and, increased access to sustainable energy services, electricity and cleaner fuels.

Finally, the fourth UNDAF outcome relevant to the OP6 focuses on ensuring that UN support to policies and institutional capacities to deal with disasters and hazards are strengthened. A key intervention which will be pursued in disaster risk reduction is institutional capacity development, primarily through strengthening the capacities of the Disaster Management Authority to respond to all forms of emergencies.

2.4 Complementarities and Synergy with GEF funded projects in the country (ongoing and planned FSPs, MSPs)

Table 3. Potential for Complementarities and Synergy with on-going/planned GEF Funded Projects.			
Name of Project	**On-going**	**Planned**	**Complementarities and Synergy**
Improvement of Early Warning System to Reduce Impacts of Climate Change and Capacity Building to Integrate Climate Change into Development Plans – Vulnerability Mapping	2013 – 2015		➢ Warning against exposure of ecosystem components of global significance i.e. Biodiversity, watersheds and river basins, land degradation, loss of livelihoods
Improvement of Early Warning System to Reduce Impacts of Climate Change – Phase II		2016 – 2020	
Eco-system based climate change adaptation in southern Lesotho	2015 – 2021		➢ Promoting climate change adaptation initiatives; landscape mapping and measurement of risk and vulnerability ➢ Promotion of economic activities to sustain livelihoods and ecosystem services against climate change impacts
Increasing Capacity for Climate Change Adaptation in the Agriculture Sector – II	2015 - 2019		➢ Promotion of economic activities to sustain livelihoods and ecosystem services against climate change impacts
Climate Change Policy Project		2016 - 2017	➢ Integration and mainstreaming of climate change issues into economic plans
Develop National Adaptation Plans		2015 - 2020	➢ Community livelihoods, women and youth groups and involvement of Community organizations ➢ Promotion of economic activities to sustain livelihoods and ecosystem services against climate change impacts
Sustainable Energy for All Project	2016 - 2020		➢ Energy access co-benefits
Promoting sustainable utilization and fair and equitable benefit sharing from Lesotho's medicinal and ornamental plants for improved livelihood		2017 - 2021	➢ Access and benefit sharing to promote biodiversity conservation
Climate Change Resilience in the Forests and Rangelands of Lesotho		2017 - 2022	➢ Promoting climate change adaptation initiatives; landscape mapping and measurement of risk and vulnerability ➢ Promotion of economic activities to sustain livelihoods and ecosystem services against climate change impacts

3.0 Strategies

3.1 Grant-making strategies

3.1.1 Describe the selected landscape(s) which will be the focus of OP6.

The Senqu river basin was selected as the preferred landscape for OP6. The process for selection of the OP6 target landscape was influenced by national strategies for integrated watershed management[12] evolving in the critical ministries of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation and the Department of Water Affairs in the Ministry of Water and weighted against the criteria for identifying landscapes to implement agro-ecological projects. The watershed based approach was aligned with three main river basins of Lesotho namely: a) Senqu river basin and its major catchments: Malibamatšo, Senqunyane, Tsoelike inclusive of the Sehlabathebe National Park in the upper reaches of Tsoelikana and the Letša-la-Letsie Ramsar site in the upper reaches of the Quthing river catchment; b) Makhaleng river basin; c) the Mohokare river basin with its major catchments of Phuthiatsana river catchments (North and South); d) Hlotse river catchment inclusive of the Tšehlanyane Nature Reserve; and e) the Hololo river catchment inclusive of the sub-catchments of the 'Muela Hydropower infrastructure (Fig.1).

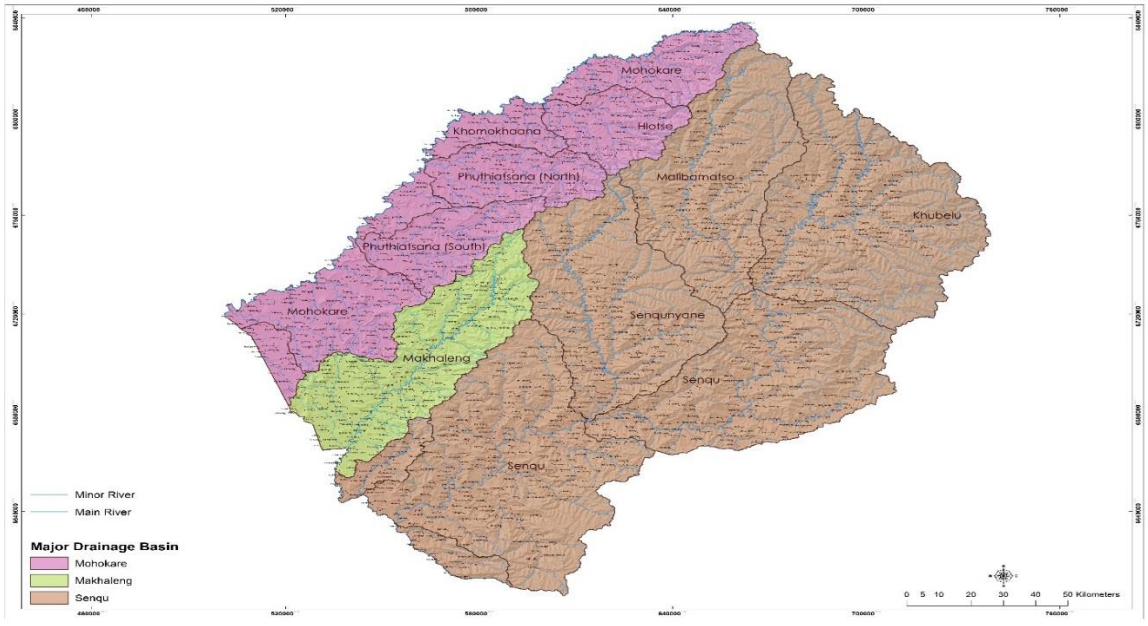


Fig. 1. Map of the Basins: Senqu, Makhaleng and Mohokare with major catchment area.

[12] Water and Sanitation Strategy of the Water and Sanitation Policy of 2007 - The Department of Water Affairs is a custodian of water resources management in Lesotho and it is mandated to implement Integrated Catchment Management (ICM).

Of these watersheds, the Senqu River is the most extensive and is aligned with one of the major agro-ecological and livelihood zone and encompasses a number of sub-catchments of global significance in terms of the GEF OP6 focal areas including the Sehlabathebe Drakensberg Park which is now a UNESCO World Heritage site and the Ramsar site at Letšeng-la-Letsie. These national heritage sites are by virtue of their status key units of the landscape domain of the OP6 program. The other catchments are much smaller in extent and themselves sub-catchments of the Mohokare river basin except the Makhaleng river basin. Both the Hlotse and Malibamatšo catchments encompass the Tšehlanyane Nature Reserve and Bokong biosphere respectively. Details of the process of selecting the final landscapes are outlined in Appendix 1.1.

3.1.2 Strategic Initiatives for OP

The NSDP 2012-2017 read together with national policies and strategies: Food Security Policy 2005, Poverty Reduction Strategy 2005, MDTP Conservation Strategy 2007[13] and the Water and Sanitation Policy of 2007 identifies strategic priorities with respect to reversing environmental degradation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, agriculture and rural economy, forestry and range resources, water resources. These priorities read together with the goals and aspirations of key line Ministries of Agriculture and Food Security; Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation; Water; Environment provide a road map of priority initiatives. In OP6, landscape strategies are developed with four outcomes, one of which addresses agro-ecosystem resilience, while aiming at improving food security and stabilizing and improving ecosystem services. The SGP experiences in Lesotho over the last two phases taken together with on-going national programs across the key line ministries will create synergy to deliver sustainable livelihoods. The priorities for OP6 will be aligned as follows:

3.1.2.1 First Priority: Community Landscape Conservation

The following thematic areas are most suited to effect this priority initiative and are in the realm of natural ecosystem management e.g Forest Ecosystems: Indigenous and Exotic; Rangelands: Maboeella and RMAs; Wetlands conservation and management.

[13] Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation Strategy. 2007. 20-Year Conservation and Development strategy for the Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation Area: Natural Heritage, Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Livelihoods in the Maluti Drakensberg Mountains of Southern Africa.

3.1.2.2 Second Priority: Climate Smart Innovative Agro-Ecology

The following thematic areas are most suited to effect this priority initiative and are in the realm of agro-ecological or managed ecosystems e.g. Household farms /croplands, homesteads gardens, green Villages: green belts, solar and domestic water systems. This will also be inclusive of innovative waterscape farming in the highlands water infrastructure dams at Katse, Mohale and Polihali (under construction). There will be need to create a window in the context of this priority initiative for capacity building and strengthening of community institutions in matters if climate change and climate change adaptation and livelihoods.

3.1.2.3 Third Priority: Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits

The following thematic areas are most suited to effect this priority initiative and are in the realm of sustainable forest management systems with innovation of bamboo energy sources in efficient energy use stoves and use of solar technologies for energy in the villages.

3.1.2.4 Local to Global Chemical Management Coalitions

This initiative is most urgent in the Mohokare landscape where industrial developments are creating chemical pollution in water systems. In this landscape the use of agro-chemicals is much higher compared to the rest of the country hence issues of chemical management is more critical.

3.1.3 Strategy for Grant Making Under the Selected Strategic Initiatives.

Landscape base projects operate within the sub-landscape unit of each of the community councils and chieftainship domains. For Lesotho such initiatives would not be workable unless they are conceptually located within the framework of local governance and landscape wide common property regimes. Thus the community council structure is a potential nexus[14] for addressing the objective from an integrated landscape wide perspective around which a range of constellations of CBOs, villages registered into associations under their respective chiefs and other collectives would be rallied for an integrated landscape conservation and management. However, this concept of nexus and constellations (Details provided in Appendix 1) would be modified to fit the local institutional and other support structures. In the present dispensation of

[14] The Nexus is a mechanism for multi-stakeholder processes for effective catchment management including participatory approaches for involving communities. The Nexus does not implement projects, but rather acts as a catalyst for the other actors to engage in joint conceptualisation and implementation of initiatives in the catchment. For example, it matches opportunities with actors and stimulates and supports them to work together. Its institutional focus is generating synergy and thereby creating added value (Letša-la-Letsi ICMP. 2013 – Draft Report)

the SGP, community councils are regarded as state institutions and thus not legible for funding. However, in the context of Lesotho, where the stakes in terms of natural resources hang on the committed involvement of community council in all matters related to the commons property regimes, the preclusions must be approached innovatively. Incidentally, the community structure itself has no government budget for management of natural resources. We strongly recommend the rethinking the rules in terms of their role in the landscape approach otherwise the approach will be no more than a theoretical concept in the institutional framework of landscape conservation. In particular, Community Councils would need to support any landscape initiative and justify it within the overall context of their natural resource management plans or visions where such plans are not existing. The focus on community agro-ecological projects challenges for an innovative approach to grant making in Lesotho. Grant making will take place at three different levels.

First, at the landscape level where common property resources like rangelands, indigenous woodlands, wetlands and biodiversity issues therein can only be planned within the context of common property regimes. The smallest unit of grant making in this case is the village lead by a chief. A member of local community council works with a number of villages falling within their electoral division and thus superintends in collaboration with the respective chiefs in all matters of natural resource management. The integrated catchment management program in MFRSC also operate at this level in terms of sustainable forest management and other conservation initiatives. The concept of green villages also falls within this framework.

Secondly, at the farm level where households manage individual plots of land averaging 0.5 ha in most cases forms the cropland. It is at this level where agroecological strategies for landscape management are envisaged. This is the managed agroecosystem level where sustainable land management practices such agroforestry, conservation agriculture and other arable farming systems apply. To make a landscape impact with such practices requires a block farming approach where a number of households, each managing their own field work on a coordinated and shared plan. Thus farmers on such a block would have to register some kind of association through which they can access the SGP funds.

Thirdly, there are a number of CBOs which would have secured certain components of the commons on the landscape or associated around certain livelihood strategies e.g. RMAs, youth clubs and women groups. Grant making would also be extended to such groups. Overall, our grant making protocols envisages the following process:

i) The first step will be to publicize and animate the potential grantees on the strategic thematic priorities. In order to make grant functional and effective in landscape terms for the first thematic

area of natural ecosystem conservation and management, the GEF-SGP local office will need to workshop the local authorities in each domain on the landscape i.e. chiefs, local community councils, Government Departments and NGOs.

ii) The second step would have the local authorities organize community meetings in their respective domains where the grant making process and is modalities would be detailed to communities and community based organizations. This step would also target schools in the respective domains.

iii) The third step would be to issue a call for project proposals announced in national media but also posted in community council halls with brochures available for distribution in the communities.

iv) The fourth step would receive submission of concept notes from potential grantees. As indicated such concepts would need as part of the references the support and endorsement letters of the chief and local member of community council to ensure that there would be no conflict on the landscape with other community initiatives. The concepts would be screened and the most promising project would be assessed and the proposers called to a workshop for further capacity building in terms of refining their concepts. This fora would also workshop the potential grantees on guidelines for turning concepts into project proposals. The proposers would then be given time to develop full proposals for submission to the SGP.

v) The full proposals will be evaluated and grants awarded

vi) The implementation of the project will be an interactive process between grantees, mentoring NGOs where applicable and Government Departments relevant to the project.

3.1.4 How will synergy between different initiatives be enhanced to achieve greater impact from multifocal approaches at landscape level?

The EU supported initiative in the Department of Water Affairs is currently planning a national program on ICM in which 74 major (excluding micro-catchments) catchments have been delineated (Fig. 2).

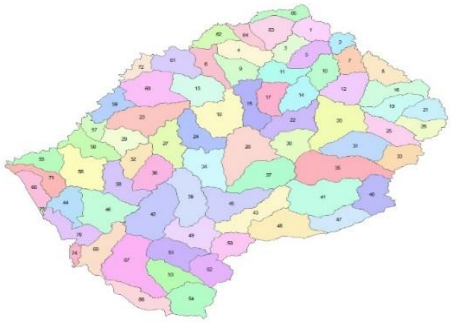


Fig. 2. Catchment delineations: work in progress - EU-Technical Assistance on ICM. Department of Water Affairs. April 2016.

The Department of Water Affairs is a custodian of water resources management in Lesotho and it is mandated to implement ICM which is the first Key Focus Area in the Long-term Water and Sanitation Strategy that emanates from the Water and Sanitation Policy of 2007. The OP6 strategic focal areas are a sub-component of this greater thrust of this ICM initiative especially the six priority catchment areas which will form the thrust of their pilot activities. We have reached an understanding in principle with the Department of Water Affairs to collaborate in the planning and implementation strategies with the OP6 activities providing critical pilot experiences and nuclei for synergies in the implementation phase of the ICM from 2017. These and other GEF projects e.g. The Ecosystem Based Adaptation Project "Reducing Vulnerability from Climate Change in Foothills, Lowlands and Lower Senqu River Valley" and Strengthening Capacity for Climate Change Adaptation through Support to Integrated Watershed Management facilitated by the UNDP and FAO Lesotho respectively. The counterparts to both projects are the Ministry of Forestry and Land Reclamation (MFLR), Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS), Ministry of Energy, Meteorology and Water Affairs (MEMWA), Ministry of Local Government, Department of Environment (DOE) and National University of Lesotho (NUL)). The FAO Least Developed Country Fund (LDCF) project focuses on three livelihood zones covering three districts: Lowlands (Mafeteng), Senqu River Valley (Quthing) and Mountains (Thaba Tseka). Two of these pilot areas of the FAO LDCF initiative (Senqu river valley and Thaba-Tseka mountain zones) fall within the selected OP6 landscape. The SGP OP6 Landscape initiative will seek to optimize synergy with these and other on-going and /or planned initiatives especially because all these initiatives are focusing community level responses and activities of global environmental significance and people's livelihoods and income generation from natural resource based strategies under the stressors of climate change. In addition, there are potential synergies and co-financing opportunities under on-going national programs such as the Land Reclamation Program of the Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation which is rolling on an integrated catchment basis, the Lesotho Lowlands Water Authority and the Lesotho Highlands Water Projects (Phase 1 and II) have significant interest in integrated watershed management entails the priority issues in the SGP OP6 program in context of a global water partnership. These programs are also critical in the global water partnership efforts of the Orange-Senqu regional conservation efforts.

3.2 Grant-maker+ strategies

3.2.1 CSO-government Dialogue Platform

During the implementation of the OP6, the SGP will engage with various stakeholders in the government, NGOs and private sector to establish and sustain dialogue platforms and promote the role of CSOs, uptake of good practices influence policies and enhance communications. Some of the strategies will include:

a) Reformulation of the SGP/ NSC to include further experts in all focal areas, as well as representatives of NGOs, international donors, government, local authorities as an effective way to influence policy makers. However, to avoid creating an NSC which is too big and for enhanced effectiveness and efficiency we recommend establishment of Technical Advisory Working groups.
b) Organize meetings between SGP/NSC and policy makers to discuss ways of cooperation and continuous coordination. Also organize demonstration visits to all successful projects sites.
c) SGP works in coordination with local authorities and governorates. They are invited to all SGP events to share and facilitate the implementation of projects.
d) Strengthen relationships with the media to highlight SGP achievements and disseminate local success stories that successfully generate global benefit

Furthermore, the review of various national reports and stakeholder consultations revealed major challenges for scaling-up interventions. In particular, i) new innovative practices require innovative structures and system reforms so as to succeed; ii) insufficient attention to scale up successful projects by providing technical assistance and necessary funding for local communities; and iii) lack of adequate financial planning and resource mobilization.

Scaling up efforts require extending and strengthening partnerships to achieve wide coverage. New partnerships will require creating new management and operations systems to support scaling up while maintaining the core values and quality of pilot projects. SGP plans to replicate and up-scale successful stories and good practices from other ongoing SGP and GEF FSP projects through the following:

a) Mobilize other financial resources (international donors, private sector, local authorities and local communities, to co-finance with SGP to up-scale or replicate successful projects in different areas and governorates to increase number of beneficiaries and local communities.
b) Strengthen NGO networks working in the same focal areas to enable them to implement joint large scale projects.
c) Provide implementing CSOs with adequate technical assistance needed through experts, research and academic institutes.

3.2.2 Promoting Social Inclusion

Lesotho's long term National Vision 2020 and PRSP 2005 both recognize gender inequality as an impediment to sustainable development and a barrier to the eradication of poverty. With this awareness, the government has embarked on numerous progressive reforms to improve the status of women in Basotho

society. For instance, the Government of Lesotho established a National Policy in 2003 as a rights-based tool geared towards addressing the challenges of gender inequality. The policy highlights that human rights for all must be based on equal participation, non-discrimination and the empowerment of marginalized women, men, and youth but in particular people living with disability. While challenges to gender equality and equity for disabled people remain, many achievements have been made in this domain.

1. In Lesotho, women are prominent in political life and in various levels of public service. In 2011, women accounted for 49[15] percent of elected councillors, and amendments made in 2004 to the Local Government Act of 1997 reserve one third of seats in each council for women.
2. Women dominate agriculture groups, extension groups, and savings and credit groups in Lesotho in general and in the regions where the project will be carried out. Traditionally, women have dominated the agriculture production of pigs, poultry, fruits and vegetables. Women are also more highly educated in Lesotho as compared to men, and are well represented in the public service and district level administration—although less so in traditional customary governance structures, which deeply influence the socio-cultural context.
3. Women have a unique relationship with natural resources which render them more vulnerable to climate change. They are responsible for food security of families through food collection, crop production, meal preparation, and often through cultivation techniques (Talafre et al. 2013[16]). One of Lesotho's unique features is women's dominance in piggery and poultry farming, and this role creates an added vulnerability to climate change, due to their economic dependence on these industries. With responsibilities within the household, such as child-rearing, domestic management and meal preparation, women often work longer hours and any added challenges such as those imposed by climate change, will increase their vulnerability and workload. Therefore, climate change adaptation interventions need to include measures to reduce women's workload.

   The use and control of natural resources has numerous social and political implications. Gender relationships are impacted by the control and use of such resources, and are thus affected by climate variability and its impacts. Although climate change impacts everyone, women and men play diverse roles in the management of natural resources in Lesotho, as in other countries, and these relationships can be affected differently by climate change. Often times, gender relationships are shaped by the labour that men and women engage in, which climate change impacts will also influence. For instance,

[15] Source: http://www.genderlinks.org.za/article/lesotho-quota-system-yields-results-at-local-government-level-2012-10-14.
[16] Talafre T., M.V. Marake, E. Hasan and S. Twomlow. 2013. Lesotho Adaptation of Small-Scale Agricultural Production (LASAP). Draft Project Design Report. April 4, 2013. IFAD.

women at the community level are responsible for summoning household water, and thus will be impacted by changes in accessibility to water resources. Men in Lesotho on the other hand are responsible for cattle raising and grazing, and will be impacted by any variables that influence livestock health, land erosion and pests due to increasing temperatures. On the other hand sensitivity to issues affecting people living with disability are often ignored. It is most probable that their access to natural resources even more detrimentally affected than their able bodied counterparts.

4. Some of the specific negative impacts of climate change on women include:

   (a) Increased shortages of basic resources, such as food, water, and fuel
   (b) Increased labour, efforts and financial resources to meet production needs
   (c) Overuse of existing resources which will lead to environmental degradation and the worsening of the poverty vicious cycle
   (d) Ecological, security and social vulnerability due to natural disasters
   (e) Strained gender relationships due to financial and social hardships
   Increase in epidemics, health-related issues due to changing climate

   Despite the challenges that climate change can impose on women, they can also be active agents of change in adaptation. Leadership of women in adaptation initiatives such as those introduced by this project, is key in ensuring the sustainability of adaptive practices. It has been determined that the capacity of a social group to adapt is based on the access that these groups have to assets. Resources such as access to land, water, technical capacity, education, health and food security all play a role in women's ability to implement adaptation strategies. The project will build upon the assets that women currently have (education, indigenous knowledge, community relationships), and foster other kinds of resources such as technical capacity and access to relevant agricultural advisories so as to enhance adaptive capacity.

A conscious effort will be made to offer equal access to opportunities and encourage participation by women in the OP6 grant making. There will also be gender-oriented vetting that takes place at the proposal review stages to ensure that women are screened in and assisted in the process of obtaining grants. Given that the OP6 is designed to support smallholders to foster greater economic independence and sustainability, and the emphasis in the project design in targeting women beneficiaries, it is anticipated that the project will result in greater economic autonomy and financial and food security for women. Given the context in Lesotho where women dominate agriculture groups, extension groups, savings and credit groups, agriculture production of pigs, poultry, fruits and vegetables and are more highly educated than Lesotho men, it is anticipated that female participation will be high.

An additional national gender aspect relates to youth in the light of recurrent high unemployment among the youth which leads to social and economic problems. It is estimated that 15.3% of the youth (25-29 age bracket) are unemployed, and the small size of the private sector has been unable to accommodate the youth that have not been employed by the public sector.[17] Unemployment is also exacerbated by the shortage of mining jobs available to Lesotho men in South Africa. While this means that more youth are taking part in agricultural activities, agricultural resources tend to remain in the hands of the older generation for longer periods. Entry into farming is delayed, particularly for young men, as they struggle to gather economic assets and resources.

Agriculture has not been a reliable source of income and many youth prefer to seek waged income opportunities. This project can potentially increase youth interest in and reliability of income from the agricultural –natural resource nexus by generating new knowledge, forecasts, and data about adaptive agricultural practices that can stand the test of time and climate. This may mitigate the risk of potential losses due to climate variability and could possibly attract renewed youth interest in the sector thereby lessening unemployment rates.

3.2.3 Knowledge Management and Communication Plan

The Country Program through the NC, assisted by the NSC, will develop a National communications Strategy (NCS). The NCS shall draw up a yearly list of activities to be incorporated into the annual work-plan. These activities will be derived from the GEF-SGP Global Communication Strategy and the GEF-SGP Project Document, adjusted to suit the local conditions and tailored to target various audiences. Communications activities to be included in annual work-plans will include among others:

- Through our ongoing knowledge management project, SGP will continue to organize several workshops for NGOs & CBOs in different councils within the operational landscapes and other district fora to acknowledge them of the SGP, how to apply for SGP grants, its focal areas and strategic initiatives and explain how to write an acceptable project proposal according to local communities' needs and demands
- National print, radio and television media featuring success stories, challenges and lessons learned on SGP projects
- Prepare newsletters on all SGP events and circulate them widely to share success stories.
- Prepare audio-visual materials on successful projects to screen them in all events, workshops and conferences.

[17] African Development Bank. *African Economic Outlook 2012: Lesotho*. Online at: http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/Lesotho%20Full%20PDF%20Country%20Note.pdf.

- Preparation of information brochures on the country program
- Field days and site visits for key stakeholders to flagship projects
- Documentation of lessons learned on projects in the form of best practices and analysis to extract ingredients of success
- Talks/presentations in high-profile events in support of resource mobilization
- Compile materials and tools useful for community level advocacy and outreach, especially with focus on participatory techniques
- Conduct workshops for key stakeholders on SGP and NGOs on national priorities and clarifying GEF SGP outcome indicators
- Participation in commemoration of world environment and wetland days and national environment fairs
- Grantee exchange visits and networking
- SGP/NSC special sessions for follow up on approved projects
- Updating the website of the SGP in Lesotho regularly to assist the NGOs, CBOs, government and all relevant stakeholders to learn more about SGP activities and also acts as an important mean of communication and sharing experiences of the different projects in all focal areas.

Implementation of these activities will be monitored closely and evaluated to determine their appropriateness and effectiveness in contributing to the success of the Country Program.

4.0 Expected results framework

4.1 Please fill in the table below (Table 3) detailing the target OP6 global project components described in the GEF CEO Endorsement document. SGP country programs are invited to establish the national-level CPS targets for the relevant integrated (multi-focal area) OP6 strategic initiatives (countries may select to work on priority initiatives).

Table 3. Consistency with OP6 global project components				
OP6 project components	**CPS targets**	**Indicators**	**Means of verification**	**Activities**
SGP OP6 Component 1: *Community Landscape Conservation:* 1.1 SGP country programs improve conservation and sustainable use, and management of important terrestrial ecosystems through implementation of community based landscape approaches	➢ The Senqu river basin was selected as the preferred landscape for OP6 targeted for improved, community-oriented conservation and sustainable use practices inclusive the Sehlabathebe Heritage Park, the Letša-la-Letsie Ramsar site and the Bokong Nature Reserve. ✓ The total land area (20800 km^2) is divided as follows: mountain zone (18047 km^2) and Senqu river valley (2753 km^2)	➢ Proportion of the landscapes with community-oriented approaches established in support of critical protected areas of sustainably managed ✓ Indigenous woodlands ✓ Planted forests ✓ Grazing Areas ✓ Croplands	➢ Grantee project reports ➢ Baseline assessment comparison variables with other integrated watershed management projects ➢ Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) ➢ CPS Review (NSC inputs)	Approx. 50 projects cutting across the following thematic areas: ➢ Conservation agriculture ➢ Sustainable Land management ➢ Sustainable forest management ➢ Wetland management ➢ Biodiversity conservations
SGP OP6 Component 2: *Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology[18]:* 2.1 Agro-ecology practices incorporating measures to reduce CO_2 emissions and enhancing resilience to climate change tried and tested	➢ At least 20% of existing community forests put under sustainable forest management ➢ At least 20% of household farm holding put under agroforestry practices; ➢ At least 20% of arable land put under conservation agriculture; ➢ At least 25% of existing indigenous woodlands will be rehabilitated, conserved and /or managed sustainably; ➢ At least 50% of existing Range Management Areas and Grazing Associations will be capacitated and /revived	✓ Number of Lead farmers involved in successful demonstrations of conservation agriculture and agroforestry ✓ Number of farmer organizations, groups or networks disseminating improved climate-smart agro-ecological practices in both managed and natural ecosystems	➢ Grantee project reports ➢ Baseline assessment comparison variables with other integrated watershed management projects ➢ Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) ➢ CPS Review (NSC inputs)	Approx. 50 projects cutting across the following thematic areas: ➢ Conservation agriculture ➢ Sustainable Land management ➢ Sustainable forest management ➢ Wetland management ➢ Biodiversity conservations
SGP OP6 Component 3: ***Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits[19]:*** 3.1 Low carbon community energy access solutions successfully deployed	Renewable Energy: ➢ All target councils receive training and awareness on biomass energy and climate change implications ➢ At least 20% of households adopt use of Biogas for cooking and heating ➢ At least 25% of households adopt water harvesting /recycling of waste water for irrigation of orchards and keyhole gardens ➢ At least 30% of households adopt use of Biomass efficient stoves ➢ At least 10 % of households adopt use of solar energy for lighting	➢ Number of green villages competitive initiatives across the landscape community councils by end of OP6 ➢ Number of households adopting low energy solutions ➢ Number of participating community councils adopt community-oriented, locally adapted energy access solutions & successful demonstrations for scaling up /replication ➢ The number of communities achieving low energy access with locally adapted community solutions	➢ AMR, country reports ➢ AMR, country reports ➢ Country Program Strategy Review ➢ (NSC inputs)	*At least 30 projects*
SGP OP6 Component 4: *Local to Global Chemical Management Coalitions:* 4.1 Innovative community-based tools and approaches demonstrated, deployed and transferred, with support from newly organized or existing coalitions for managing	Lesotho does not have a legislation dealing specifically with management of chemicals and pesticides. At least one Youth group in 50% of the community councils promoting safe use of chemicals through: • Environmental awareness and education on pesticide use and management • solid waste management (plastics, e-waste, medical waste and so on), • Education and awareness of potential heavy metals from mine spoils and effluent	➢ At least two industrial cities targeted for industrial waste water management ➢ Number of community councils adopting good waste management and innovative use of waste products ➢ Number of community-based tools/approaches to avoid and reduce chemicals demonstrated, deployed and transferred ➢ Number of coalitions and networks established or strengthened with local and international linkages	➢ Individual project reporting by SGP country teams ➢ Strategic partnership with IPEN country partners ➢ Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) ➢ Country Programme Strategy Review	At least 5 projects on chemical waste management

harmful chemicals and waste in a sound manner	• Education and awareness of waste chemical from industrial sites in the lowlands landscape			
SGP OP6 Component 5: *CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms (Grant-makers+):* 5.1 SGP supports establishment of "CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms", leveraging existing and potential partnerships	The CPS seeks to leverage the CSO-public institutions platforms on governance and resource management legal and policy frameworks. In this context CSO would be mobilized within community councils. The Community council outreach structure will be used as a platform to integrate CBO projects into government programs and strategy as well as mobilizing CBOs for participation in OP6. ➢ At least 50% of the communities councils active in the dialogue platforms ➢ Full participation and engagement of CSOs as grantees and partners	➢ Number of events for "CSO-public agencies in planning and Dialogue Platforms initiated across national, district and landscape ✓ The geographic focus for platforms will entail rangelands and wetland policy and legislative frameworks covering issues of multi-lateral environmental agreements ✓ The platforms embrace research and interaction with academia.	➢ Individual project reporting by SGP country teams ➢ Strategic partnership with IPEN country partners ➢ Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) ➢ Country Program Strategy Review	1. Wetland management and conservation supporting major economic water infrastructure 2. Biodiversity through range management, sustainable forestry and conservation of indigenous woodlands 3. Control of land scape degradation in both managed and natural ecosystems 4. Benefit sharing and access
SGP OP6 Component 6: ***Promoting Social Inclusion (Grant-makers+):***				
6.1 Gender mainstreaming considerations applied by all SGP country programs; Gender training utilized by SGP staff, grantees, NSC members, partners	➢ At Least 30% participation by women, youth and persons with disabilities in the OP6 grant making. ✓ There will also be gender-oriented vetting that takes place at the proposal review stages to ensure gender equality and equity with deliberate effort to empower women, youth and persons with disabilities to access the process of obtaining grants. ➢ 10 percent of the resources allocated to the main landscape will be allocated to	➢ Number of women led projects ➢ Number of indigenous /cultural related projects with higher capacities for organizing conservation efforts in cultural initiation practices and policy advocacy ➢ Number of women, youth and persons with disability groups that participate in SGP projects	➢ Grantee project reports ➢ Baseline assessment comparison variables with other integrated watershed management projects ➢ Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) CPS Review (NSC inputs)	➢ Wetland management and conservation supporting major economic water infrastructure ➢ Biodiversity through range management, sustainable forestry and conservation of indigenous woodlands ➢ Control of landscape degradation in both

[18] The NC & NSC will facilitate a campaign to sensitize different stakeholders with emphasis to residents within the landscape. Different platforms including community councils, community meetings, CSO advocacy for SGP will be engaged. We assume that this will attract interest across the thematic areas of the SGP. The nature of response will then determine the selection if lead farmers. The SGP M&E and grantee reports will create frameworks for assessment.

[19] A baseline study will be conducted for each of the participating entities in low energy projects emphasizing current scenario on expenditures for energy related issues in the household. The post project assessment will then provide a framework for quantifying the benefits.

	conservation initiatives supporting cultural /indigenous practices			managed and natural ecosystems ➢ Benefit sharing and access
SGP OP6 Component 7: ***Global Reach for Citizen Practice-Based Knowledge program (Grant-makers+):*** 7.1 Digital library of community innovations is established and provides access to information	➢ SGP Lesotho will organize information sharing and capacity building workshops for CSO and local communities and authorities and government agents in different councils within the operational landscapes ➢ SGP Lesotho will use websites to contribute to the global digital library.	➢ Number of knowledge products systematically collected, organized and shared	➢ National SGP posting to the Global Database ➢ Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) ➢ Country Program Strategy Review	➢ Project reports ➢ SGP Lesotho global database inputs
7.2 South-South Community Innovation Exchange Platform promotes south-south exchanges on global environmental issues in at least 20 countries	➢ SGP Lesotho will seek to promote in country innovation exchange platforms on global environmental issues	➢ Number of in country and inter-council exchanges supported that transfer capacity on new community innovations between communities, CSOs and other partners in Lesotho	➢ National SGP posting to the Global Database ➢ Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) ➢ Country Program Strategy Review	➢ SGP (NC) interaction with grantees ➢ Intra-landscape lessons and experience sharing workshops

5.0 Monitoring & Evaluation plan

Some standards and guidelines will be developed to measure the impacts and achievements of the program as follows: i) Building partnerships between projects within and /or in different landscapes; ii) Seeking to bring NGOs participation to address at least one of the global environmental areas; iii) Engagement of local community councils to enhance sustainability and the ability of up-scaling and replicating implemented projects; iv) Building in a co-financing mechanism with a proportion of the total budget of the project through the NGO itself or through the local community; v) Encourage partnerships with the private sector and government.

a) Program Monitoring and Evaluation

The SGP in Lesotho will restructure membership of its NSC to include Technical Advisory Groups to leverage a diversity of expertise without making the NSC too big. This will help to steer the uniqueness of OP6, National Focal Points of international conventions, as well as project managers of GEF large scale projects to ensure full harmonization between the large and small scale GEF Projects. Monitoring and evaluation working teams will be formed at the local /landscape level and shall incorporate grantees, local authorities and other stakeholder institutions at the local level. At the national level, the NSC will hold meetings on a quarterly basis for following up on the results of approved projects, brainstorming of their relevance to the set upon outcomes in the SGP OP 6 strategies.

b) Project Monitoring and Evaluation

Each member of the NSC will be responsible for following up the implementation of a set of projects forming a linkage with the local M&E teams and reporting back to the NSC on challenges and constraints hindering the proper implementation of the project. This will include site visits of members of the sub-committee of the SGP / NSC to special projects that need regular follow up. Finally, reports will be submitted to the NSC for final decisions.

c) Integrate M&E in the Project Design

Each project reviewed by the committee should have clear objectives that link it to the global environmental problems. Performance indicators for measuring the project progress should be part of the proposal submitted and the committee should verify that these indicators are measurable. These indicators should be built with emphasis on outcomes and impacts mentioned with the SGP strategy. A training workshop will be conducted by the SGP for different stakeholders and grantees to ensure consistency between the outcome indicators stated in the SGP strategy and project performance indicators submitted from within project

proposals. Monitoring and evaluation reports from the different projects will be collated by the SGP Office at the country program portfolio level (Table 4).

Table 4. M&E Plan at the Country Program Level		
M&E Activity	**Responsible Parties**	**Timeframe/Scope**
Participatory Project Monitoring	Grantees	Duration of project
Baseline data collection[20]	Grantees, NC	At project concept planning and proposal stage
Financial Reporting	NC/PA, UNOPS	Quarterly
Two or three project progress and financial reports (depending on agreed disbursement schedule)	Grantees, NC	At each cash disbursement request
NC Project Proposal Site Visit (as necessary /cost effective)[21]	NC	Before project approval as appropriate
NC Project Monitoring Site Visit (as necessary /cost effective)	NC	On average once per year as appropriate
NC Project Evaluation Site Visit (as necessary /cost effective)	NC	At the end of the project as appropriate
Project Final Project	Grantees	Following completion of project activities
Project Evaluation Report	(as necessary /cost effective)	NC, NSC, External party
Prepare project description to be incorporated into global project database	NC	At the start of the project and on-going as appropriate

6.0 Resource mobilization plan

The CPS recognizes the importance of mobilizing and encouraging co-finance needed to increase the effectiveness of GEF/SGP in Lesotho. The GEF-SGP through the National Coordinator, with support from the UNDP CO, the National GEF Focal point, and the National Steering Committee will solicit support for establishment of partnerships for mobilization of financial and technical assistance with bilateral and multilateral development agencies, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, NGOs, the academia and other organizations. The SGP will also leverage the UNDAF development framework for support. Quite a number of program/projects forming the portfolio of projects under the Energy and Environment Program of the UNDP CO are GEF funded projects while some are bilaterally funded.

[20] Capacity-development workshops and M&E trainings may be organized in relation to innovative techniques for community monitoring, including new technologies (i.e. GPS-enabled cameras, aerial photos, participatory GIS) as well as in response to guidelines for "climate proofing" of GEF focal area interventions and /or other specific donor/co-financing requirements.

[21] To ensure cost-effectiveness, project level M&E activities, including project site visits, will be conducted on a discretionary basis, based on internally assessed criteria including (but not limited to) project size and complexity, potential and realized risks, and security parameters.

Synergies are being explored for possible collaboration on implementation of community level activities where the SGP has comparative advantage. Some national development partners e.g. Government of Japan continue to consult with the Country Program for potential candidates for their small grants program and this presents a potential avenue for co-financing of the Country Program management costs.

There are successful models in the provision of effective participation by the NGO, local authorities and local communities which should be explored. However, there is the tendency to make more efforts to encourage co-financing in parallel to the development of resources and contributions in the implementation of projects to ensure project sustainability. There are initiatives for enhanced participation and support from UNDP to mobilize the private sector and to engage it as an active partner in order to fulfill its social responsibility. These will be escalated. The CPS for OP6 will emphasize again on the importance of continuation and building more partnerships with the stakeholders and actors which may provide contributions (in cash and in kind) to active NGOs. This would ensure mobilizing additional resources in addition to the co-financing provided by the NGOs and local communities.

Furthermore, the NSC will attract new representatives of interested agencies who could become future collaborators and partners in achieving the co-finance. In addition to these strategic actions to increase the level of co-finance, SGP Lesotho will implement some measures to ensure the co-finance and the transparent and effective ways of using the GEF SGP funding. The following are some of these measures:

- Explore possibility of contribution of the communities and grantee as a nominal proportion of the total cost, while at least 50 % of this contribution must be paid as cash contribution.
- At least 70% of the grant must be spent by the grantee on direct costs of the project's implementation.
- Maximum 20 % of the grant can be spent on raising awareness and the importance of community involvement in the adoption of the project and participation in the project.
- An average of 10% of the total grant could be spent on administrative expenses excluding salaries which if any shall be the contribution of the grantee.

7.0 Risk Management Plan

7.1 Risk Profile and Analysis

Table 5. Project Risk Analysis and Management Matrix

Describe identified risk	Degree of risk (low, medium, high)	Probability of risk (low, med or high)	Risk mitigation measure foreseen
Institutional conflicts with on-going public and /or NGO projects on the landscape	Slow-down of project implementation and jeopardize integration of relevant experiences into national programs	Low	The project formulation process will maintain the multi-institutional nature of the National Steering Committee inclusive of key relevant line Ministries (i.e. MFLR and MAFS and local government), Meteorological Services, Disaster Management Authority at both national and district levels in order to ensure effective coordination and participatory decision-making.
Highly fragile environment for intensifying crop and livestock production	High-risk aversion to innovations among subsistence farmers and herders and high vulnerability to climate-related hazards	Medium	Building resilience of local ecosystem and ensuring stability and optimal use of chemicals and fertilizer. Reducing vulnerability through reliance on improved farming practices, improved natural resources management including erosion control.
Conflicts in the management of communally owned resources	Could lead to low interest in participation and failure of communally implemented innovations/practice.	Medium	Participatory approach in decision-making and building community consensus through local authorities at the initial stage including some training on conflict management of common resources
Politicization of the grants	Create attitudes and political bias	Low	The fund management will be ring fenced from government institutions
Operational issues: lack of quality in design	Poor design would create a disconnect between activities and resources allocated	Medium	The proposal development process culminating in funding will monitor and evaluate any discord between activities and budget
Operation: Lack of expertise	Could the deliverable potential of the project	Medium	The proposal evaluation process would look for this and advise for modification of projects accordingly. In addition the collaborative linkage with expert departments /NGOs would enforced as the case may be.
Operational: Conflicts with local authorities	This could derail the project especially where activities involve the commons	High	The assessment of the project proposal will ensure that there is transparency and cooperation between grantees and local authorities and communities

7.2 How the Risks will be tracked.[22]

The aim of project risk analysis and management is to guide the project successively from decision to completion, and to secure it from failure or time and cost overruns due to multidimensional risk factors. So with all the risks surrounding projects one cannot afford not to use project risk analysis and management as that would put the project at risk by not taking advantage of the following benefits: i) Risk analysis and evaluation; ii) Comparison of variety of risk reactions and strategies; iii) Optimizing and deciding the best strategy; iv) Provision of early warning; and v) Ability to be flexible and responsive to change.

The follow up and tracking process of SGP projects will be through the following: the SGP National Coordination Office; the National Steering Committee members from the SGP committee as well as the GEF national steering committee to ensure transparent flow of information; CBOs and NGOs from the grantees and others; and independent third parties. As indicated in the project risk analysis and management (Table 5), the risk identification, assessment and mitigation will be an integral part of the monitoring and evaluation process undertaken in a participatory manner at different levels from grantees, community council, NSC and NC.

[22] It is recommended that risks are tracked during the implementation of the CPS and review during the CPS Annual review. At that time the degree of risk, or probability of risk may be adjusted. Identified risks may also be removed and new risks added if necessary with appropriate mitigation measures identified.

Annexures

8.0 APPENDIX 1: OP6 LANDSCAPE BASELINE ASSESSMENT

8.1 Selection Criteria for final landscape

Three landscapes were shortlisted for final selection (Fig. 1) following a watershed based approach namely: a) Senqu river basin and its major catchments: Malibamatšo, Senqunyane, Tsoelike inclusive of the Sehlabathebe National Park (Drakensburg-Maloti World Heritage Site) in the upper reaches of Tsoelikana and the Letša-la-Letsie Ramsar site in the upper reaches of the Quthing river catchment; b) Makhaleng river basin; c) the Mohokare river basin with its major catchments of Phuthiatsana river catchments (North and South); d) Hlotse river catchment inclusive of the Tšehlanyane Nature Reserve; and e) the Hololo river catchment inclusive of the sub-catchments of the 'Muela Hydropower infrastructure.

Photo: Top: Sehlabathebe World Heritage Park **Bottom:** Letša-la-Letsie Ramsar Site

8.2 Criteria for Identifying Landscapes

8.2.1 Landscapes with farming systems that may substantially contribute to food and livelihood security of local communities representing the majority of their livelihood provisions.

All three landscape units in general fit this criterion. However, the Makhaleng river basin is too small with much lower populations. Four catchments were targeted within the Mohokare river basin (Phuthiatsana South and North, Hlotse and Hololo catchments. These catchments are not contiguous on the landscape and are comparatively low ranking on issues of global significance. The Senqu River Basin (SRB) on the other hand is a composite of two agro-ecological zones (Mountains and Senqu river valley) which together constitutes approximately 50 percent of the land area of Lesotho and cuts across seven district jurisdiction (Fig. 3). Furthermore, these area supports the less privileged rural communities deriving their livelihoods from livestock and arable dryland farming systems most vulnerable to climate change impacts hence in most dire need of livelihood adaptation efforts.

Photo: Top: Lower Senqu River Basin **Bottom:** Upper Senqu River Basin

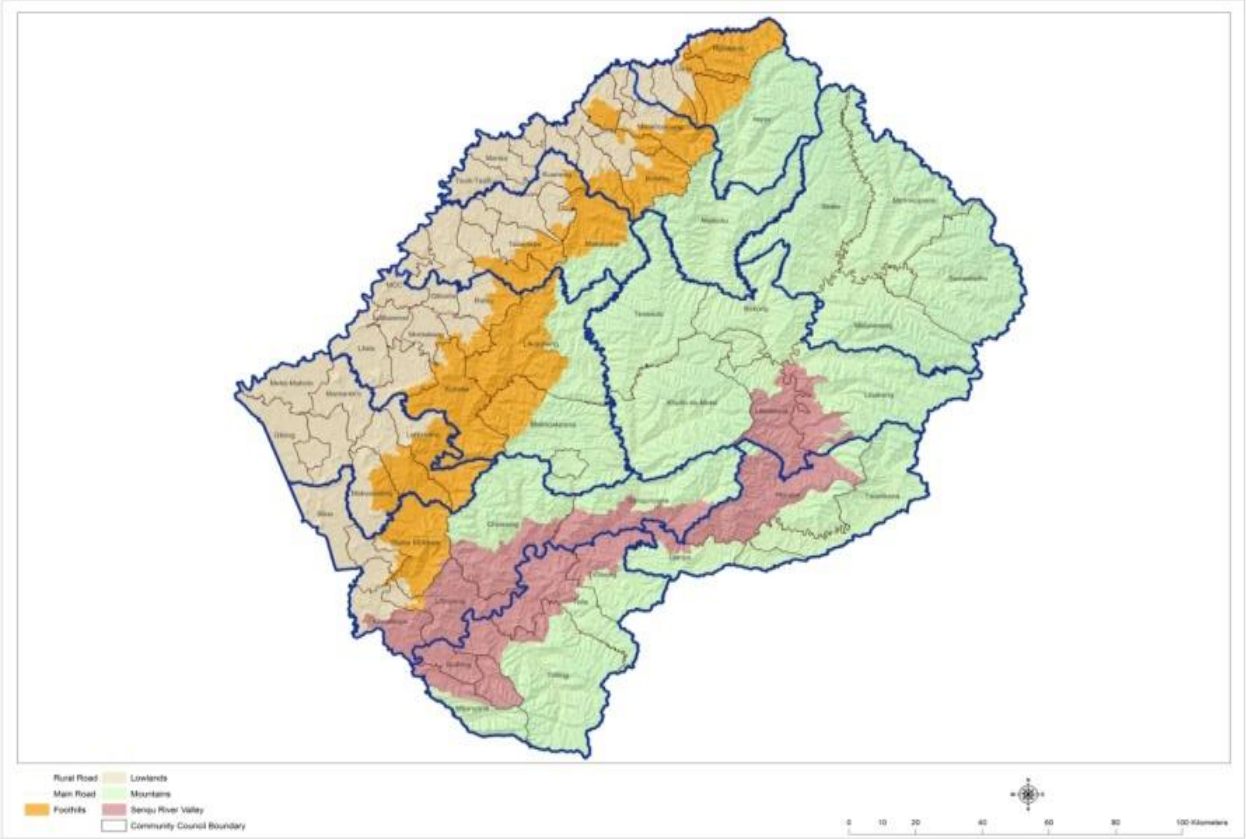


Fig. 3. Map of Agro-ecological Zones of Lesotho showing the SRB as a composite of the Senqu river valley and Mountains.

8.2.2 Landscapes endowed with agricultural biodiversity and genetic resources as well as other biodiversity such as wild relatives, pollinators and wildlife associated with agricultural systems landscapes.

The SRB hosts the greatest agricultural biodiversity with the greatest use of open pollinated crop varieties that are also indigenous to the landscape area. In addition, biodiversity is also greatest in this region with hotspots for wildlife and nature reserves and parks of global significance.

8.2.3 Landscapes nurtured by farmers and /or people which maintain invaluable knowledge, indigenous technology and management systems of natural resources including seeds, biota, land and water.

The SRB is populated by rural farming communities of herders and crop farmers with invaluable knowledge of natural resources with adaptive skills livelihoods and survival on livestock farming and agriculture in a difficult environment. These communities still practice indigenous grazing management strategies based on maboeella.

8.2.4 Landscapes with groups organized in social organizations and /or networks including customary institutions for agro-ecological management, normative arrangements for resource access and benefit sharing

In the greater SRB there are Range Management Associations and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) associated around a variety of initiatives including biodiversity conservation. These CBOs are facing challenges of access and benefit sharing in the national parks and nature reserves. In the upper reaches of the SRB, the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority has installations of regional economic value which inter alia provide waterscapes with opportunities for exploring resource access and benefit sharing by the riparian communities of the Katse, Mohale and Polihali (under construction) dams.

8.2.5 Landscape features resulting from human management that provide ingenious or practical solutions to environmental challenges and create opportunities for enhancement of biodiversity conservation and collective recreational, aesthetic, artistic, educational, spiritual, and /or scientific uses.

The is a need for wetland management to sustain international waters and land conservation in the landscape which serve as head waters of the three major water projects initiatives of the LHDA. The Letša-la-Letsie Ramsar site and Sehlabathebe Heritage Park provide recreational, aesthetic, educational and scientific uses.

8.2.6 Landscape strategies address inter-related challenges at the landscape level and propose integrated economic, ecological and social solutions. When looking for ways to address global challenges – including poverty eradication, food security, climate change and environmental sustainability – concerted holistic actions at the local level with impacts at global level are critical.

The SRB landscape unit, given its size and range of environmental /ecological issues therein, provides the best platform for SGP to float themes addressing economic, ecological and social challenges.

Photo: Community livelihood impressions in the mountains

Effective governance of production landscapes call for formal and informal institutions that can represent multi stakeholders with an integrated landscape plan. Thus successful governance of integrated landscapes does not necessarily require the establishment of formal state institutions at the landscape level but mechanism that create connections and communities of interest across the landscape may be more effective. The landscape unit is geomorphological delineated into major watershed area forming the tributaries of the SRB. Each of these is administratively divided into autonomous community councils and chieftainships (Fig. 4).

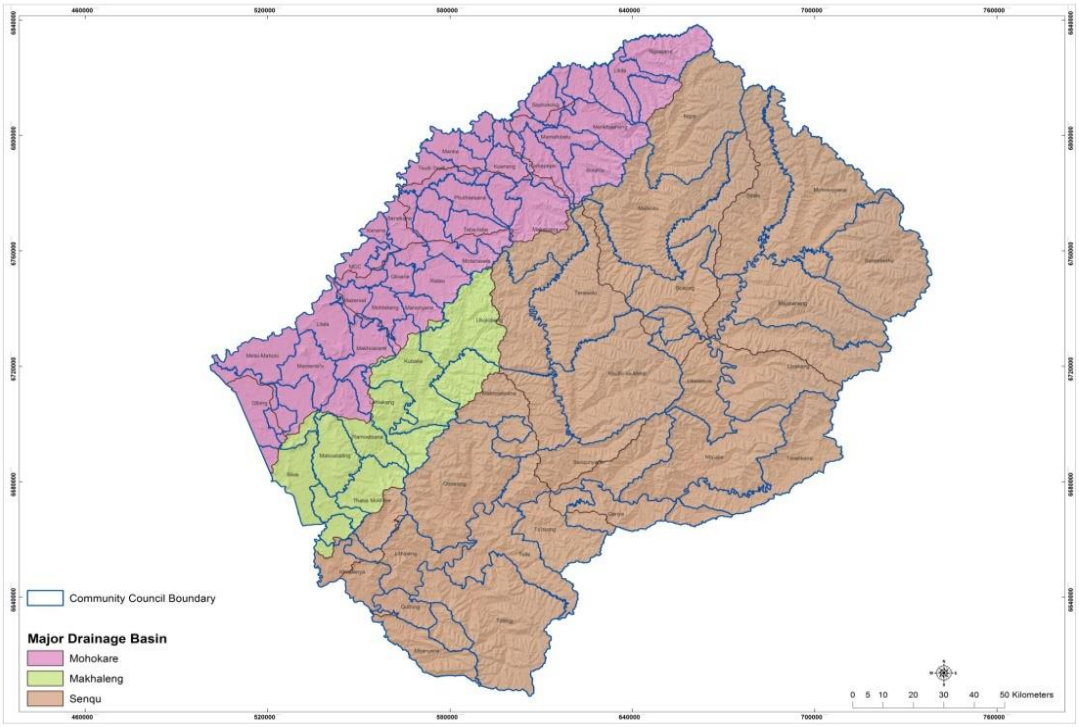


Fig. 4. The Landscape Units with Community Councils

Grantees operate within the sub-landscape unit of each of these councils and chieftainship domain there in. Grant making based on a landscape approach would not be meaningful in Lesotho if it is not contextualized within these domains. Thus the community council structure is a potential nexus[23] for addressing the objective from an integrated landscape wide perspective around which a range of constellations of CBOs and other collectives would be rallied for an integrated landscape conservation and management. However, this concept nexus and constellations would be modified to fit the local institutional and other support structures. In the present dispensation of the SGP, community councils are regarded as state institutions and thus not legible for funding. However, in the context of Lesotho, where so much stake in terms of natural resources hangs on the balance of this structures while the structure itself has no government budget to management natural resources, we strongly recommend the rethinking of their role in the landscape approach otherwise the approach will be no more than a theoretical concept in the institutional framework of landscape conservation.

23 The Nexus is a mechanism for multi-stakeholder processes for effective catchment management including participatory approaches for involving communities. The Nexus does not implement projects, but rather acts as a catalyst for the other actors to engage in joint conceptualisation and implementation of initiatives in the catchment. For example, it matches opportunities with actors and stimulates and supports them to work together. Its institutional focus is generating synergy and thereby creating added value (Letša-la-Letsi ICMP. 2013 – Draft Report)

8.3 Alignment with the Landscape Strategy

8.3.1 Knowledge sharing and dissemination of lessons learnt is critical to scale up successful interventions at the landscape level.

Community councils acting as a nexus would be an innovative platform and vehicle for integrating the SGP projects, sharing and dissemination of lessons at the landscape level across each district domain. These together with CBOs and NGOs as constellations would promote effective information dissemination essential for building the adaptive management capacities of community organizations. Government ministries and departments would also come on board these platforms.

8.3.2 Generating knowledge requires an accessible methodological approach to innovation, analysis of experience and dissemination of lessons learned and good practices.

In the Lesotho, the landscape unit is a commons property regime. Since the knowledge generated is based on locally specific evidence that can be transmitted from person to person and group to group across the landscape, and used to propose credible policy and program reforms, it is imperative to anchor such lessons and experiences on the institutional structures of the commons. The community councils and chieftainship institutions are critical for implementation of projects and consequently upscaling the best practices.

8.3.3 Working at the landscape level requires long-term engagement and adaptive management. This entails long term strategic engagement with communities, and a program-based rather than a project based approach.

A program approach for long terms strategic view in the SRB landscape unit requires, as a prerequisite, the community councils on the landscape to have a shared vision on natural resource management planning if not a consolidated natural resource management plan. In the context of Lesotho, the landscape approach will only make sense if grant making is then seeking to support and /or contribute to such a long term strategic plan for natural resource management across the landscape. Otherwise the grant project will remain isolated events on the landscape instead of promoting participatory community-based action learning areas which inter alia create opportunity for multi donors to collaborate in funding innovative and more strategic activities over a reasonably long period of time. In this case there is potential to leverage synergy with watershed programs in the Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation including (GEF initiatives with UNDP and FAO) and the long term integrated watershed management program in the Ministry of Water (Department of Water Affairs) currently developed with EU support where they overlap with the SGP on the SRB landscape.

8.4 The Adopted Landscape Unit

The process of landscape selection lead to three main options. The most preferred landscape unit is the Senqu River Basin. Recognizing the centrality and critical role of ecosystems (managed and natural including waterscapes of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project) in sustaining livelihoods in Lesotho, the SRB landscape was deemed to offer the SGP O6 program the best platform to integrate focal areas of biodiversity, international waters, land degradation, resilience and carbon sequestration approaches.

8.5 Baseline Assessment Criteria

8.6 Participatory OP6 landscape baseline assessment

8.6.1 Consultative process

The context of the SGP's implementation in OP6 is the development of landscape approaches appropriate to Lesotho with the view to better focus grant-making and promote strategic programming and clustering of small grant projects with the aim to achieve greater impact and lead to synergies and opportunities for scaling up. However, for focusing the grant-making process and protocols envisaged, a consultative process started with Government Departments and Ministries, NGOs and Farmer organizations to establish key national priorities and how various role players establish their mandates in relation to key national policies and strategic plans.

The approach initially proposed in the Inception Report and validated by the NSC and Stakeholders has been modified from an agro-ecological zone based landscape concept to a watershed zoned concept within major river basins of Senqu, Makhaleng and Mohokare by consensus building workshop of stakeholders. For purposes of the baseline assessment, stakeholder communities and local authorities overlapping the boundaries of the selected catchments within the SRB were consulted (Table 1). Of these river basins, the Senqu is the most extensive and is aligned with one of the major agro-ecological and livelihood zones. The greater watershed area encompasses a number of sub-catchments of significance in terms of the GEF OP6 focal areas. Within each watershed the following systems were assessed and evaluated in terms of the OP6 focal areas.

Table 1. Baseline sampling strategy and indicative ecosystems					
District	**Watershed**	**Community Councils**	**Ecosystems**		
			Natural	**Managed**	**Waterscapes**
Leribe	Malibamatšo	Bokong			
		Matsoku			
Botha-Bothe		Nkoe			
Thaba Tseka	Senqunyane	Khutlo-se-Metsi			
		Tenesolo			
Qacha's Nek	Upper Senqu	Ntšupe			
		Tsoelike			
Mokhotlong	Khubelu	Mphojoana			
		Sanqebethu			
		Menoaneng			
Quthing	Lower Senqu	Tosing			
		Telle			
Mohale's Hoek		Qhoasing			

a) Natural Ecosystem Features

i) Forest Ecosystems: Indigenous and Exotic

ii) Wetlands conservation and management

ii) Rangelands: Maboeella and RMAs

b) Agro-ecological /Managed Ecosystem Features

i) Household Farms and Homesteads gardens

ii) Green Villages: Green belts, Solar and domestic water systems

c) Waterscapes or Major dams

- Lesotho Highlands Water dams: Katse and Mohale dams

Katse Reservoir at the Dam Wall

A range of NGOs, CBOs and associations: farmers, youth and women groups operating within vicinity of the selected community councils were consulted during the baseline assessment of the SRB watersheds. The following considerations on the landscape properties informed consultations both at the preliminary and detailed baseline assessment stages:

i) Scale of landscape

ii) Ecosystem features and issues of global significance e.g. Biodiversity, wetlands and water resources, land degradation including threats to ecosystems functionality and productivity (chemicals, climate change, energy needs)

iii) Social capital: Social groups and community organizations

iv) Economic activities supporting livelihoods and employment especially those based on natural resources

v) Potential livelihood and conservation opportunities for demonstration, community action, integrated approaches building on existing landscape focus and planned /on-going development where possible to leverage synergy with FSPs, other programs and government plans

vi) Assessment of viable entry points for SGP and cognizance of practical considerations e.g. accessibility, avoidance of conflicts, monitoring and operational cost among others

vii) Availability of resources for grant making

8.7 Baseline Assessment of Selected Landscape

8.7.1 The Biophysical Environment

The SRB is a product of tectonic and geomorphological processes that formed the Great Escarpment of southern Africa over the past 130 million years (Porter 1999[24]). As a result of its geomorphology, topography and situation in the temperate region of southern Africa, the landscape forms a unique alpine centre of endemism in the region (Van Zinderen Bakker and Werger 1974[25]). The present day landscape reflects a series of major erosion cycles over millions of years. Each cycle involved the erosion of a newly uplifted surface caused by volcanic action and uplifting on the eastern edge of the continent. The generally steep gradients of the escarpment have led to relatively rapid erosion on the geological timescale. The geology of the area is relatively simple, with horizontal strata arranged in a linear, stepped manner along the zone of uplifting which forms the present day escarpment. Broadly, the lower strata are sedimentary and the upper strata volcanic in origin. The 'cave sandstones' that provided the canvas of the San artists are part of the Clarens Group; these are highly resistant to erosion and form the impressive cliff faces of the Drakensberg. The dominant strata on the landscape is the Drakensberg basalts beds and volcanic sediments underlying most of the landscape area. The soils of the landscape reflect the geology, climate and erosive nature of the environment. Generally, soils are shallow and highly weathered. In general soils on these landscape are nutrient poor and require organic inputs from the vegetation cover to maintain their structure. They appear to be very slow to recover from disturbance and are easily eroded once the vegetation cover is lost (Bainbridge 1979 cited in Bainbridge *et al.* 1986[26]).

The mountains (2000– 3482 m a.s.l.) form a major part of this landscape and are primarily used for summer grazing transhumance practices. They also host some unique African alpine and sub-alpine habitats of the Drakensburg range (Marake, 1999)[27] . Klug *et al.* (1991)[28] classified the mountain ecological zone of the

---

24 Porter, R. 1999. Nomination Proposal for the Drakensberg Park alternatively known as the Okhahlamba Park to be listed as a World Heritage Site. Proposal submitted to United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization.

25 Van Zinderen Bakker, E.M. and Werger, M.J. 1974. Environment, vegetation and phytogeography of the high altitude bogs of Lesotho. *Vegetatio* **29**:37-49.

26 Bainbridge, W. R., Scott, D. F. and Walker, R. S. 1986. Policy statement for the Drakensberg State Forests. Forestry Branch, Department of Environment Affairs, Pietermaritzburg.

27 Marake M.V. 1999. Arable Agriculture in Lesotho. In First State of the Environment Report (ed.) K.Q. Chakela. 1999.

28 Klug, J. R., De Villiers, J. M., Tainton, N. M. and Matela, L. S. 1991. Terrain Analysis Project. In: Bainbridge, W.R., Motsamai, B. and Weaver, L.C. (eds). Report of the Drakensberg /Maluti Conservation Programme. Natal Parks Board.

landscape in terms of landscape capability classes for agricultural purposes and identified three classes within the landscape, namely:

- *Class VI*: soils with permanent limitations that make them unsuited to cultivation. Their use to natural grazing, improved pasture, afforestation or wildlife is also limited.
- *Class VII*: soils with very severe permanent limitations that render them unsuitable for cultivation and restrict their use to natural grazing, afforestation or wildlife.
- *Class VIII:* not suitable for land uses other than wildlife, recreation, water supply and aesthetic needs.

Over time the land has been eroded and degraded by many unsuitable land use practices such as agriculture, afforestation and overgrazing by livestock. The Senqu River Valley (1500–1800 m a.s.l) sub-landscape is a major grassland area marked by shallow soils in the rain shadow of the mountain zone and receives the lowest precipitation (450 mm) in the country. The population in this region depends largely on livestock and mixed farming. In addition, both human and non-human animal populations practice migration or transhumance, by moving from the highlands to the lowlands in response to seasonal and other demands. As the highlands become less hospitable during the winter, many animals move down into the valleys and return to higher altitudes once summer and the wet season returns. In the case of humans and domestic animals this allows the highlands to recover from the summer grazing. For wild animals, migration allows different areas to be used for breeding and foraging according to habitat requirements. Overall, seasonal migration ensures that the impacts of these populations are distributed more evenly through space and time than would be the case if migration were not possible.

8.7.1.1 Agro-climatology of the Landscape

The climate in the landscape is characterised by warm moist summers that run from around November to March; and cold dry winters from around May to July. Higher elevations above 3000 metres above sea level, experience significant snowfalls during winter with prolonged period of sub-freezing temperatures. Thus, such conditions limit the extent to which agriculture can be diversified across the major portions of the landscape. This zone is estimated to contain about 1,375 species of plants, 250 species of birds, 50 species of mammals and about 30 species of reptiles and amphibians[29]. However, this area is currently under heavy grazing pressure by domestic animals, especially in the summer seasons and notably most

[29] MDTP 2007. Spatial Assessment of Biodiversity Priorities in the Lesotho Highlands. Technical Report.

endemics occur in heathlands and bogs of the upper alpine belt (Majoro et al., 1999)[30] which are constantly trampled by livestock.

8.7.1.2 Water and Wetlands Resources

Lesotho is trained by three major rivers, the Senqu, Makhaleng and Mohokare river systems. However, their performances are influenced by precipitation that in turn is influenced by topography. Rainfall pattern in Lesotho, increases with altitude from an average of 450mm in the lowlands and Senqu river valley to over 1000mm in the north eastern highlands of this landscape (Sekoli, 1997)[31]. Mires dating back to the Holocene period are common in the highlands of Lesotho and occur where precipitation exceeds potential evapo-transpiration, thus creating a net surplus. These consist of peaty-loam deposits commonly found in riverheads and play an important role in regulating the flow of water streams that ultimately feed the major River systems mentioned above. These Mires vary in size, ranging from several square metres to several square kilometres (Hughes and Hughes, 1992)[32]. However, recent observations indicate diminishing size of the wetlands with severe degradation and some actually drying up due, to amongst a number of reasons, high grazing pressure and trampling by livestock leading to accelerated degradation of many peat wetlands compounded by lack of enforcement of environmental impact assessment especially in the construction of roads that tend to cut across wetlands.

8.7.1.3 Rangelands

Approximately 80 percent of Lesotho's land can be regarded as rangelands and most of that is within the boundaries of the SRB landscape. Though land is a national asset and conceptually everybody deserve to have open access to it, communities have defined territorial boundaries where they can graze their animals. The Lesotho livestock system is characterised by the practice of transhumance, which is a form of rotational grazing that involves the seasonal movement of livestock to and from the mountain grazing areas. Livestock are moved to higher mountains during summer and brought back to lower altitudes near residential areas during winter. The summer grazing areas are designated "A" and they are administered by Principal Chiefs. The transitional areas between "A" and the village grazing areas "C" are called "B". These areas are also administered by the Principal Chiefs. The "C" area is the domain of village chiefs and headmen on one side,

[30] Majoro M., M. Mphale, M.V. Marake, M. Makoae, G. Rwambali and N. Mokitimi. 1999. A Social Assessment of the Maloti Transfrontier Development and Conversation Project. Kingdom of Lesotho and Republic of South Africa.

[31] Sekoli B. 1997. Climate and Climate Change in Lesotho. Q.K. Chakela (ed.) *The State of the Environment Report*. National Environment Secretariat. Ministry of Environment, Gender and Youth Affairs.

[32] Hughes R.H, and Hughes J.S. 1992. *A Directory of African Wetlands*. IUCN-UNEP-WCMC.

and the local community councils on the other. Both institutions are responsible for implementing *maboella*, which is a system that involves reserving certain parts of the rangelands for thatch grass, rejuvenation of grazing grass and other needs. Where possible, the system involves rotational grazing.

8.7.1.4 Conservation Strategies

Promoting people's participation in conservation and livelihoods through protected areas of different categories can be useful in conserving Lesotho's biodiversity. In the SRB biodiversity conservation takes two different forms: i) conserving the species, habitat, and ecosystems, by total exclusion; and /or ii) conserving the species and ecosystems by assuring that a balance is maintained between the state of the resources and pressures imposed upon them by users. In the context of Lesotho experience shows that that conservation of plants and animals can be done best *in situ* in collaboration with users. Thus, the participation of the surrounding communities becomes vital for the sustainability of such areas and development in general. Currently it is only about one percent of the region is under some form of protection. Experience of past and on-going initiatives underscore need to identify the methods by which the communities and the nation in general exercise to extract and conserve the resources. In the SRB, the following strategies have already been in use over time in one form or another to varying degrees of success.

a) *Maboella* System

This is an indigenous system that has been in use for a long time and is still currently in use in many parts of the SRB. This communal system governs access to rangeland resources for grazing, thatching, crafts, and medicinal purposes. Resting of resource areas is a primary management tool available to chiefs for ensuring sustainable supplies of rangeland resources. However, in most parts of the landscape, this system is under considerable pressure due to increased human and livestock populations coupled with declining powers of chiefs. Consequently, it can no longer resuscitate the resources or even maintain the remaining ones due to overgrazing and poor range management practices.

b) Range Management Areas (RMA)

In light of the apparent failures of the m*aboella* system (Marake 2006[33] and Marake 2008[34]) especially in the mountain grazing zones, several strategies of managing communal rangelands have been tried and tested in Lesotho. In 1978 the Ministry of Agriculture initiated the RMA concept with an intention of raising awareness, empowering, training and advising the communities on the management of their rangelands An

[33] Marake, M.V. 2006. National Capacity Self-Assessment Report for Implementation of Multi-Lateral Environmental Conventions.
[34] Marake M.V. 2008. Towards Land Care in Lesotho. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Report.

RMA is an area of land specifically set aside by a chief (or community council) upon which improved range management and livestock production practices are introduced. RMAs are managed by a Grazing Association (GA), which are formally registered with legal identity under the Societies Act 1966. GA is an organised group of range users and resident within the area, and operate with the advice of agricultural extension officers. The aim of establishing GAs was to place the responsibility for livestock and range management in the hands of the livestock owners who, given their vested interest, would effectively manage their stock as well as conserve the rangeland resources. In the first 20 years of the innovation six areas with a total of 185,684 hectares were operating under the RMA system (Mokuku, 1999)[35] *al beit* in various states of functionality in the SRB. Ever since, the adoption of the RMA practice thrived in most parts of SRB reaching a total of nine (9) established RMAs in 2006 and at least six (6) more proposed during that period (Marake 2006). This promising innovation has however experienced a variety of administrative, legal and operational challenges that need to be resolved for smoother operation and sustainable range management.

To date RMAs have experienced many obstacles in their evolution and operations, such that most of them are no longer operational. The objectives of the RMA programme are to improve and maintain rangeland productivity, and to promote rangeland sustainability and increased incomes for the communities that depend on the rangelands for their livelihood. The Range Management Department, now under the auspices of the Ministry of Forestry and Land Reclamation strives to achieve these objectives by: discouraging lowland-highland seasonal transhumance; promoting intensive livestock production in the lowlands and foothills; reallocating cattle post user rights to ensure better range management practices; registering livestock throughout the country with a view to facilitate the design of appropriate grazing plans; improving livestock marketing opportunities to encourage regular offtake from the range; and promoting the sustainable distribution of livestock on the range, consistent with carrying capacities which have been advocated since the 1990s.

The MDTP and the Department of Range Management evolved a new concept of the Managed Resource Area (MRA), which is institutionally broader and more inclusive than RMAs. The MRA is to be a body representing all natural resource users, not just livestock owners/members of GAs. MRA is now a concept endorsed formally by Department of Range Management although it is not yet formalised into national policy. In 2012, two (2) MRAs were operational in the SRB namely Khomo-Phatšoa (formerly Sehlabathebe) and Mokhotlong/Sanqebethu (Marake 2012)[36].

[35] Mokuku C. 1999. Biodiversity and Protected Areas in Q.K. Chakela (ed.) *The State of the Environment Report*. National Environment Secretariat. Ministry of Environment, Gender and Youth Affairs.

[36] Marake, M.V. 2012. Vision 2020 Review: Environment, Climate Change and Climate Change Adaptation. Ministry of Development Planning.

c) Nature Reserves

There are a few areas protected for ecosystem preservation and recreation purposes. These areas, which essentially wholly or partially preclude community use, include the Sehlabathebe UNESCO Heritage Park, Tšehlanyane and Bokong Nature Reserves. However, upon completion, both the Tšehlanyane and Bokong Nature Reserves will operate not strictly as total exclusion areas, but as sustainable use areas. The main problem associated with this approach has been the fact that communities were not fully involved in their establishments creating an access and benefit conflict. The lack of participation has resulted into encroaching and vandalising practises such as burning the protected areas. In addition to the exclusion areas mentioned, the baseline study refilled that there are also about 100 existing pockets of government owned forest reserves and 13 indigenous forests throughout the SRB area.

The reveals that the concept of people's participation is now widely accepted. However, the challenge is to determine the conservation approach and the type of peoples' participation. Conservation efforts have a choice of either adopting:

i) The benefit sharing community conservation approach, whereby communities are not allowed to use resources but instead share the benefits in form of provision of social services, compensations or sharing the revenue generated out of the area (e.g. from tourism). However, it is critical as Hartley (1999)[37] pointed out, to determine who should receive benefits and get access to resources and whether it is the local community, national, or international objectives that are important.

Or,

ii) Community-based approaches whereby communities have the right to manage both land and resources found therein, based on the principle of common property resource management. Again as Hartley (1999) noted, these can be risky undertakings to conservationists, since the communities might opt not to conserve the resources.

Secondly the mode of community participation is crucial for sustainability. It may take the following forms:

a) Passive participation: people are perceived to be receivers of information or directives;
b) Informative participation: communities or people are suppliers of information to decision making processes;

[37] Hartley, D. 1999. Participatory Processes and Conservation in Lesotho (Drakenberg-Maloti Conservation Programme). Paper Presented to the Consultative Workshop in Maseru 4-6 May, 1999

c) Functional participation: communities implement already planned activities with pre-determined objectives;
d) Consultative participation: people discuss matters with the implementing institutions in order to incorporate their views into the plans;
e) Interactive participation: communities participate in planning activities as full stakeholders; and
f) Active participation: communities take full ownership of the resources and are also able to take decisions on their own.

Experience has shown that, sustainability is jeopardised by passive forms of participation. Therefore, to enhance sustainability, one is left with interactive or active participation. For purposes of the SGP, the challenge is to float a variety of thematic options which would allow councils, CBOs, Chiefs and state actors to create innovative solutions for the benefit of both conservation and livelihoods.

8.7.1.5 Constraints of Conservation and Implications for the SGP O6

In context of the SRB landscape, there are many issues and constraints that need to be addressed if any meaningful conservation has to take place. These include the following:

a) Protected areas management is perceived as a foreign concept that attempts to remove right of ownership of land from Basotho (Mphale et al., 1999[38]; Hartley, 1999). The SGP can allow for grants which seek to break these barriers.
b) The traditional grazing system has been in place for more than a century utilising the mountains, foothills, and the lowlands. Exclusion of the mountains will mean more pressure on the foothills and the lowlands (i.e. "B" and "C" grazing areas). The SGP must create a window for grant making for both Grazing Associations in the B and C grazing areas. This implies that the SGP will have to relax barriers for participation of community councils acting together with CBOs like grazing associations.
c) Policies and legislation are in most cases not clear and responsibilities and jurisdictions over natural resources are scattered across many Government ministries and departments as well as in several local structures. This in some cases has resulted in conflicts and friction (Mphale et. al. 1999; Hartley, 1999). It will thus be conflictual for any CBO to effectively take conservation initiatives on the landscape without participation of community councils, area chiefs and in some instances

[38] Mphale M., M.G. Makoae, and E.G. Rwambali. 1999. Participatory Stakeholder Group Opinion Analysis for the Drakensberg-Maloti Mountains Conservation Programme. National Environment Secretariat. Ministry of Environment, Gender and Youth Affairs.

Principal chiefs. NGOs and state actors will be critical to breaking the barriers across ministries and departments of government.

d) Land is a common property resource. Thus, people consider the idea of exclusion to the benefit of the state or some CBO collectives. To avoid conflict our grant making protocols must address the participation of community councils as parastatal institutions rather than state institutions per se.

8.7.1.6 Sustainable Land Management and Agriculture

Rangelands are the predominant land use type (80%) with only 18 percent arable in the highlands. Overgrazing is blamed as the biggest cause of land degradation and biodiversity loss in the SRB. Klug *et al.* (1991) classified the mountain ecological zone of the landscape in terms of landscape capability classes for agricultural purposes and identified three classes within the landscape with serious limitations that render them unsuitable for cultivation with varying constraints for alternative uses of improved pasture, plantations and in some instances only suitable for wildlife, recreation, water supply and aesthetic needs. However, over the last 150 years people colonized what was initially grazing land into homesteads and began to evolve a mixed farming system including extensive farming for crop production. As indicated earlier, this landscape has fragile ecosystems with steep slopes and thin basalt derived soils. This is further compounded by high intensity storm events causing soil loss and river siltation. Thus the physical landscape and climate makes poor recipe for arable agriculture because of the inherently low capacity for withstanding intensive cultivation especially conventional agriculture. Much of the landscape is beyond recovery with extensive sheet erosion on steep slopes and gulley erosion in the lowlands and in wetlands.

a) Conservation Agriculture

Conservation Agriculture (CA) has been practiced in Lesotho for some time but it was escalated in the Food Security Strategy of 2005[39] and has since 2004 between promoted by FAO, NGOs and ultimately adopted as a major program in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security as a key strategy in the National Food Security Policy and Plans especially in respect of prevent soil erosion and land degradation respectively.

It is now estimated that about 3000 households have adopted CA while an approximately an additional approximately 5000 households have been exposed to the technology and are at different stages of adoption in terms of the key principles of the technology: minimum tillage, permanent soil cover in cover crops or residual crop cover and crop rotations. Some of the most successful demonstrations were carried in the SRB in Quthing, Qacha's Nek and Thaba-Tseka.

[39] National Food Security Strategy. 2005. Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security. Government of Lesotho.

The inception problems and teething challenges in the initial years of the large scale CA demonstration in the MAFS have since been mitigated by agronomic and sociological research in the National University of Lesotho[40] and much more successful demonstrations in the smallholder farming sector by NGOs such as Growing Nations in Qacha's Nek, Quthing and Mohale's Hoek and other parts of the country. A national strategic plan for promotion of conservation agriculture (2012 - 2017) has been developed under the auspices of the Lesotho Network of Conservation Agriculture Practioners with support from the FAO. The strategy envisions 50 percent of arable agriculture in conservation agriculture systems by the year 2020 and seeks to promote adoption and up scaling of CA technologies in the agriculture sector across all ecological zones of Lesotho through the formulation of appropriate land management policy, research and extension strategy, improved coordination, institutionalisation, cooperation and creation of smart partnerships between the MAFS, Ministry of Education and Training (MOET), Academic and Research Institutions, public, private and NGOs in Lesotho.

b) Sustainable Forest Management: Agroforestry and Fodder production

The MFRSC has on-going programs on fruit tree planting as interplanted orchards through the SRB area. Consultations within community councils have acknowledged these on-going interventions including advocacy for planting Lucerne for fodder. An appropriate vehicle for carrying agroforestry projects is necessary. The Dairy associations such as the Liphamola Dairy Farmers have been able to leverage resources from various sources such as the Letšeng Diamond Mines and GEF funding for establishment the dairy farm. The SGP has an opportunity work with similar funding agencies in co-financing arrangements to create impact on the landscape. Consultations with different stakeholders across the landscape reveal a need for alternative farming systems and arrangement which would alleviate grazing pressure from the rangelands and also improve and /or diversify livestock production and quality of products.

Furthermore, MFRSC is promoting integrated catchment management through the Fato-fato initiatives. The Ministry provides both fruit and tree seedling for community and individual initiatives by sourcing tree seedlings from private nurseries. The program provides functional entry points for SGP in terms of agroforestry and sivipastural initiatives with communities including epiculture. The Ministry is also piloting bamboo production and products development with a conservation and business dimension. A

[40] Eash N., D.M. Lambert, M.V. Marake, C. Thierfelder, F.R. Walker and M.D. Wilcox. 2012. Paper Presented at the International Conference on Climate Change, Recycling of Agricultural Resources, Technology Improvement and Agriculture Management. College of Economics and Management and College of Land Management. International Academic Exchange Center. Huazhong Agricultural University. Wuhan, HuBei. China.

number of NGOs are already functional on the ground within the SRB working on different aspects of sustainable forest management in natural resources such as GROW in Mokhotlong, RSDA and World Vision in Mohale's Hoek and SMART in Quthing and Qacha's Nek.

8.7.1.7 Overview Analysis

The unique Afro-Alpine resources are increasingly being degraded by over-utilisation in the SRB area. This is compounded by the grazing regimes practised, especially the breakdown of the maboeela regimes and open access tendencies where property regimes allows utilisation of resources without proper mechanisms in place for preservation and conservation of the resources. Consequently, biodiversity and natural resources have become vulnerable and exposed to risk. It is out of this concern that contributory efforts of the SGP are critical for enhancing people's participation and ownership of interventions on the landscape. Many studies have for some time, been concerned with the deterioration and lack of adequate protection of natural resources in general, and biodiversity in particular of the SRB landscape. Despite these observations and concerns, only a few areas are under some form of protection e.g. Sehlabathebe Heritage Park, Letša-la-Letsie Ramsar site and Tšehlanyane-Bokong Biosphere reserve. However, most of the protected areas are a source conflictual interaction between communities and the government. Otherwise, the rest of the areas are open for extensive extraction. Probably, the major intriguing issue and the most difficult to resolve is the human element. People within these areas depend on these resources for their livelihood. The challenge is to reconcile these apparently opposing objectives. In other words, how can the SGP funds be used to facilitate for conservation of this unique area while at the same promoting opportunities for improvement on people's livelihoods i.e. production and income generation through conservation.

Consultations reveal a preference for private initiatives rather than community or CBO based production systems in arable agriculture. Experience from communal irrigation schemes and communal vegetable gardens shows that promoting sustainable land management and on a landscape in term of arable agriculture requires innovative approaches. Conservation agriculture, agroforestry systems and greening villages ecosystems through household breaks, household orchards, solar lighting and energy conserving stoves would fit under the basket of strategies for promoting agroecological farming principles on the landscape. However, such practices appeal to private and individual initiatives rather than collective actions. The issues have declining crop yields and vulnerability to drought, concerns about energy sources have been raised in the various stakeholder consultation fora. The challenges of applying agroecological principles on the landscape requires a coordinated effort both in arable farming and within households in villages. For purposes of grant making here we recommend associating villages into CBOs in a such a manner that

they would work their household farms as individuals but acting within a block of land management but a collective of farmers with mutual interest in doing agroecological farming in a block. A similar approach is visible in the concept of green villages where the community can have a shared vision and plan implemented by individual households. The community would act as CBO to apply for grants but households would be responsible for successful implementation and sustainability of activities on the landscape. This way SGP would leverage individual initiative and self-interest but mobile community action on the landscape.

8.7.2 Socio-economic Characteristics

In this assessment, a formal household survey was not conducted. However, previous studies in this area (Majoro et al., 1999; Mhlanga 2009[41], Mhlanga and Marake, 2012[42]) were reviewed. Seventy-nine percent of the heads of households in this study were males and most female-headed households turned out to be headed by old widows. It has been argued that customary practices restrict widows from remarrying. This is unlike with widowers who normally remarry following the death of their first wives (Tshabalala and Turner, 1989)[43]. The study also observed a high dependency ratio of 40 percent since most of the household members were below 15 years of age. Although Lesotho boasts high literacy rate (78 percent) as compared with most other African countries, in their study, Majoro et al (1999) reported that a significant number of people (31 percent) had no formal education. They attributed this observation to the fact that rural communities members tend to be less educated than their counterparts in urban areas. In Lesotho, the mountain areas have even fewer and poorly equipped schools. In addition, herding is still a common practice done mainly by boys at school-going age. In their study approximately 55 percent of respondents had primary education with the rest having secondary and high school education. Similar results were reported in the other studies in this area.

8.7.2.1 Primary Occupation

Anecdotal analysis shows that the SRB area is devoid of formal job opportunities compared to the Mohokare river basin hence a majority of the adult population work as either farmers or housewives. In such situations beer brewing, remittances from people working in the mines in the Republic of South Africa are critical sources of income (Majoro et. al, 1999). Discussions in focus groups in this study revealed that

---

[41] Mhlanga, Michael L. 2009. *Report of a Baseline Study for the Senqu and Senqunyane Civil Works*, Ministry of Public Works and Transport

[42] Mhlanga M.L. and M.V. Marake. 2012. Interim Social Impact Study of the Senqu and Senqunyane Civil Works. Mhlanga Consulting. Ministry of Public Works and Transport.

[43] Tshabalala, M. and Turner, S.D. 1989. Socio-economic Census of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, 1988. Phase 1A Area. Vol. 1, Main Report. Environmental Division. Lesotho Highlands Development Authority. Maseru.

for that the main cash income from farming is apparently the sale of wool and mohair while interestingly, brewing is the main secondary source of household cash income for most households.

Thirty six percent of the households indicated that both livestock and crop farming are their primary sources of non-cash income compared to 34 percent of the households who mentioned that crop farming was their main source of non-cash income while only 10 percent had livestock as the primary source of non-cash income (Majoro et. al., 1999). This was attributed to rampant stock theft which has shifted the balance of livelihoods from livestock to crop production apparently because stock theft has become a disincentive and has rendered livestock farming very risky. However, crop farmers considered livestock to be equally important as they use it for draught power.

In their study, Mhlanga and Marake (2012) found that the productivity of traditional agriculture was gradually declining due to, amongst others, environmental degradation and unreliable climatic conditions. Consequently, their findings revealed that most of the labour force was passively looking for alternative sources of livelihoods in the form of remunerative economic opportunities. A number of alternative income earning opportunities were recorded including small corner shops, transport provisioning, informal business activities, especially beer brewing for sale and liquor outlets. This diversification of income sources formed an important strategy for coping with livelihood shocks. Apparently, with the diversification of income sources has come a greater need for cash in most of the rural areas in Lesotho because such cash incomes are vital for accessing basic services such as supplementary food, medical services, transport services, clothing and communications. According to Mhlanga and Marake (2012), cash incomes were important measures of social welfare in both the Baseline study (Mhlanga 2009) and their interim evaluation study of 2012.

Furthermore in Mhlanga and Marake (2012), almost all of the households studied were involved in agriculture either directly or on a share-cropping basis with other households that owned either fields or cropping resources of one form or other. In contrast to Majoro et. al. (1999), 86 percent households regarded agriculture as their main source of in-kind income in addition to in kind wages and salaries, bartering, in-kind payments, and food rations. However, in corroboration to Majoro et. al. (1999), Mhlanga and Marake (2012) observed an apparent shifts in the main sources of cash income from their baseline in 2009 since the households that had no source of cash income had increased from two (2) percent in the 2009 baseline to six (6) percent in the interim study of 2012. This according to their interpretation implied greater destitution amongst communities in their study area. Furthermore, dependence on agriculture as a main source of cash income went down from 18 percent in the baseline to 13 percent in the interim evaluation while that on wages and salaries also decreased from 19 to 14 percent in the same period. In the

same vein, households that depended on business as a main source of cash income had also dropped from by eight percent in the interval. Interestingly, Mhlanga and Marake (2012) observed a decline in the dependence on the old age pension as a main source of cash income from 18 to 14 percent in the same period of reference.

Livestock Farming and Management

Most of the livestock population is found in the SRB region (Bureau of Statistics, 1992) in terms of both cattle herds (25%), sheep (48%) and goats (31%). For instance in 1991/92 the mountain districts of Mokhotlong, Qacha's Nek and Thaba Tseka had 25 percent of national cattle herd. In Lesotho the practice of *Mafisa* has to be considered when dealing with livestock and range management issues. Livestock data from rural surveys in Lesotho have often been queried because farmers tend to understate the numbers of livestock (Tshabalala and Turner, 1989). This is because of their fear of taxation, grazing fees or other restrictions such as destocking. One other cause of inaccuracy is that women respondents often do not know the number of livestock owned by the household since livestock farming is mainly the responsibility of men. The problem is further compounded by the *mafisa* practice or is a system of livestock borrowing and lending which generally gives the manager rights to flow products such as milk, wool, mohair and draught power while the owner retains title to the inventory including progeny. The practice often results in double counting but it is an important safety net in the rural areas.

Utilisation of Rangeland Resources

Ninety three percent of the households utilise rangeland resources found in the "A" grazing areas (Majoro et al., 1999). Interestingly, the majority of the households utilise rangeland resources for individual as against community use (Mphale et al., 1999). Very little of the rangeland resources are sold. All the rangeland resources are available in summer with the exception of stones which are available throughout the year. The focus group discussions in this baseline assessment showed that most households practise transhumance and obtain grazing permits from their Principal Chiefs before sending their livestock to summer grazing areas. Livestock are usually send to the "A" grazing areas in the summer and brought back to "B" grazing areas in the late Autumn and then to "C" grazing areas in the early winter. Farmers obtain grazing permits for specific "A" grazing areas where they build their cattle posts. Some informants utilising the "A" grazing areas mentioned that they no longer practice transhumance because of stock theft and cross-border conflicts between farmers in South Africa and Lesotho. For example, farmers from Khubelu and Pae-la-Itlhatsoa areas reported that they no longer use the Letšeng-la-Senqu and Liphofung areas because of conflicts with people from Mnweni area in Kwazulu-Natal.

Livestock are brought to the "C" areas in winter where they graze crop residues and graze around the river valleys. Stall-feeding is practised during critical times in winter when there is heavy snowfall. Other reasons for stall-feeding include shortage of grass during winter and the need to separate stud animals from the rest of the flocks. It is clear that not much stall-feeding is practised except during emergencies. The major reason being lack of resources to purchase animal feeds.

Most households are aware that the main water sources are in the "A" grazing areas and feed streams, rivers and wells. Water from rivers is mainly used for livestock, laundry and irrigation purposes. Most of the water used for cooking is from taps and wells/springs.

Sources of Livelihood

In all the communities studied, livestock and crop farming remain the main sources of livelihood. The main livestock types reared are cattle, sheep and goats. However, most households own donkeys and horses. Sale of livestock and livestock products gives farmers access to cash which they use to purchase other household needs such as groceries, and paying for health expenses, school fees and uniform. Livestock production in Lesotho is used to meet both economic and subsistence needs. Sheep and goats are primarily kept for wool and mohair, respectively. Donkeys are used for transporting goods while horses are kept for human transportation, especially in the mountains. For subsistence, cattle are kept to provide draught power, meat and milk. There are also socio-cultural uses such as *bohali* (bridewealth), and ceremonies. For example, sheep are used for cultural ceremonies such as welcoming and naming newly born babies and welcoming newly married brides into the families.

Households that do not own livestock can borrow or hire livestock especially cattle for draught from those households that possess them. Indirect benefits from livestock also accrue to households that hire out their sons as herdboys. The herders are paid up to twelve sheep or one cow annually and such livestock may be sold by parents to provide for household needs including sending siblings to school.

The historical perception of livestock farming as a major source of livelihood has changed drastically. There was a general agreement that livestock numbers per household have declined. For example, a significant proportion of households no longer own livestock. In their baseline (Majoro et. al., 1999) observed that about 69 percent of the households in the sample did not own small stock while 46 percent did not own cattle. Livestock theft, among others, was considered to be a major contributing factor. Many households

have lost their livestock due to both inter- and intra-boundary raids. Terrain as well as proximity to the border was seen as encouraging the practice.

The stock theft phenomenon is perceived as a threat to people's lives because herders are often murdered in cattle posts during the raids. There are also instances where livestock owners are killed when they attempt to stop raiders. Consequently, livestock farming is perceived to be risky and unreliable source of livelihood. Dependence on livestock is also affected by dwindling and degrading pastures, a problem reported by many to be caused by drought, fires, rats and encroachment by shrubs and unpalatable species.

The 1999 baseline showed that 13 percent of the households were landless. Crop farming, outside the main river valleys, is practised on steep, marginal and badly eroded lands. The main source of draught power for ploughing, planting and weeding is livestock. Crop yields are reportedly low and annually decreasing. Some of the reasons mentioned were climate change and poor use of manure and fertilisers. Production inputs such as improved seeds and reluctance to engage extension services locally available in some of the villages are perceived as constraints to crop production. Climatic constraints such as early frost, drought or late rain (during the ploughing season) were considered as yet other important risk factors in crop farming. However, a significant majority of the households are engaged in crop production and this observation is consistent with other studies (Majoro et. al., 1999; Mhlanga and Marake, 2012). The major crops are maize, sorghum, wheat, and beans. The number of fields owned by the households range between one and three[44]. All informants were unanimous that farmers not have enough harvest to feed their families for the whole year and have to supplement by buying additional needs, bartering animals and other assets and also relying on relatives and friends. Similar results were reported in earlier studies (Majoro et. al., 1999; Mhlanga and Marake, 2012). Poverty, mainly expressed in terms of lack of access to needed cash, was seen by both the communities and the technical staff based in some of the villages as a serious problem facing most households. Declining job opportunities in South Africa have compounded the situation. This phenomenon has brought about several challenges for rural households, as mine remittances have traditionally been a major source of income for households.

To address these problems, women (young and elderly) adopt various strategies. For example, both men and women mentioned that beer brewing was an important source of cash income. The income so generated was just enough to buy the basic groceries such as soap, salt, cooking oil as well as paying for grinding grain. The remainder is reinvested in beer brewing. In most communities, it was mentioned that prices for

[44] Average field size in Lesotho is about 0.5 hectares. Fields are even smaller in the mountains as most are found in steep valleys and mountain slopes.

local brew were extremely low. This activity was reported in Motete to be negatively affected especially in winter when there is a preponderance of cultural feasts and fresh crop harvests. Potential customers are provided free beer throughout most of the period. Stokvels were found to be one of the important sources of income and livelihoods for women in almost all sampled communities. Similar findings were reported in Majoro et al. (1999).

Energy demands in the study area are met through the harvesting of wild shrubs and collection of cow dung. This is mainly for domestic consumption although in various communities, there were individuals who sold firewood (shrubs) to others. In places such as Pae-la-Itlhatsoa, men travel long distances to bring fuel wood for sale to women and the elderly in the village. They were also reportedly supplying the Letšeng-la-Terai settlements with fuel wood. Generally, only a small percentage of the households used paraffin and gas for household energy needs (Mhlanga and Marake, 2012). In Mokhotlong, Some residents reported benefits from tourism as men occasionally guided tourists on hiking trips to Thabana-Ntlenyane and other areas. Interestingly, this kind of development to exploit tourism potential is lacking among the communities surrounding the Sehlabathebe National Park and the Bokong nature reserve.

8.7.3 The current state of the Landscape (s)

8.7.3.1 Natural Resources and their Perceived Status

The predominant resource available on the landscape is land, which is complemented by relatively few water bodies. The land area comprises grasslands, shrubs, wetlands, and fields on lower slopes (Fig. 5). The rangeland resources found in the "A" grazing areas include wild vegetables, medicinal plants, fuel wood/shrubs, grass for crafts, and grass for thatching, wild animals, fish, clay/soil, stones and precious stones.

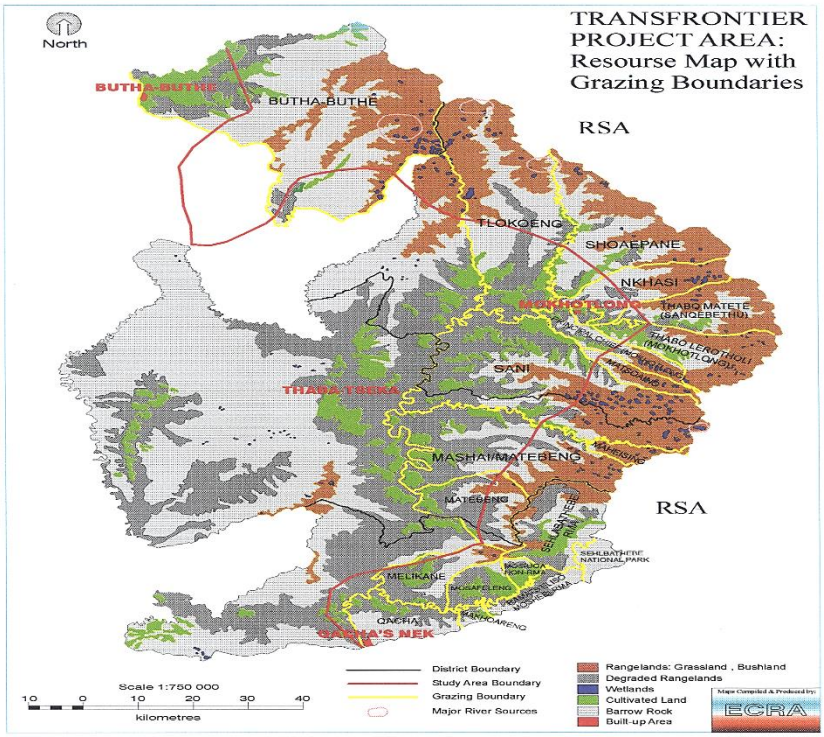


Fig. 5. Land use map in the upper reaches of the SRB. Source: Majoro et. al (1999)

The status of the grassland is largely degraded and deteriorated to the point where in some areas bare rockland is exposed. This observation was confirmed by people's perceptions during our interactions with the communities.

Photo: Degraded Rangeland Areas in the highlands

In addition, the wetlands were perceived by most groups to be degrading severely and most of the wetlands are drying up and shrinking to the point of extinction especially in the winter. For example, at present the Letša-la-Senqu has shrunk considerably.

Photo: Degraded Wetlands in the Highlands

Despite consensus among different community stakeholders that the current state of rangeland resources is severely degrading, perceptions concerning the root causes and reasons for the degradation vary spatially. In some places drought is cited as the cause of resource degradation while in other overgrazing is the cause. For those who perceive overgrazing as a main cause of resource degradation, the tragedy of the commons is seen as leading to a detrimental interaction of resource management and degradation resulting from community relations and dynamics. In some instances lack of cooperation within community institutions is rive while in some cases people blame an apparent break down in the enforcement of law and order in natural resource management due to weak legal frameworks.

They further argued that they have never seen rivers get dry except in times of drought and if it is argued that wetlands were no longer in good condition then the rivers should be running dry. Members of current or defunct RMAs, however, they acknowledge that land degradation was reduced under the RMA system. Our observations corroborated the perceptions of the RMA members. For instance, along the transect from Oxbow to Kao, Thaba-Tseka to Mantšonyane on the 'Matšooana plateau, there are active cattle posts within the wetlands. Moreover, there is severe degradation of the range resources in the lands surrounding these cattle posts including the wetland areas. Majoro et al. (1999) make similar observations along the transect from Thaba Tseka to Mokhotlong as well as along the Matebeng drive between Mashai to Sehlabathebe where infrastructure developments such as roads have also contributed immensely to wetland degradation and they cited the road from Botha Bothe to Mokhotlong cutting right through the Mahlasela wetlands while the Mokhotlong–Sani road passes through several wetlands including the big Letša-la-Sani.

Despite consensus from most communities that wetland degradation is a result of drought, other causes of degradation were perceived as burning of grasslands, overgrazing, and trampling. The Linakeng communities further attributed the perceived degradation of rangelands to over-grazing and lack of timely rotational grazing. In Majoro et al. (1999), RMA groups cited the high rate mock migration[45] into the RMA communities and the invasion of the RMAs by neighbours and non-RMA members as a root cause of wetland and rangeland degradation within the RMAs. They further reported the issue of grazing conflicts between chiefdoms as a source of rangeland degradation particularly where "A" grazing areas are co-administered by two principal chiefs. This conflict militated against conservation in that as one chief rested an area the other continued to issue grazing permits to same area.

[45] Households that wish to use the RMA, but which reside outside the villages that comprise the RMA are required to migrate into any of RMA villages as a precondition for accessing the RMA. In practice, some households merely make promises to migrate, but never actually do. This has undoubtedly led to a feeling by the RMA communities that they are unfairly being taken advantage of.

The baseline assessment points at specific trends in land and resource degradation in the SRB. First, there is consensus among the communities that rangeland degradation has precipitated the decline in livestock productivity and disappearance of medicinal plants and wild vegetables. Secondly, the degradation of rangelands has affected the functionality and quality of wetlands. In particular, many wetlands are shrinking, their hydrological cycles have been detrimentally affected because of erosion in the form of gullies and degradation in the form of overgrazing and trampling by livestock. Thus threatening ecological services such as perennial water flow into the LHWP reservoir infrastructure. Thirdly, soil erosion and degradation of the croplands has led to the decline in crop yields. In many parts of the SRB, croplands are eroded to the base rock and alternatively farmers taking even steeper slopes which exacerbates the rate of soil erosion and degradation the land leading to desertification. Fourthly, in many places across the SRB, indigenous woodlands are degraded by rampant and uncontrolled deforestation leading to soil erosion, land degradation, loss of biodiversity and other ecosystem services. Woodlot reserves have also experienced similar destruction by unlawful harvesting and fire. The combined effect of the foregoing is a landscape wide erosion and land degradation and loss of livelihoods based on natural resources.

8.7.3.2 Suggested Solutions and Implications for GEF-SGP O6

Observations made in the current baseline assessment of the SRB landscape taken together with previous studies commissioned by the Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Project and the Lesotho Highlands Water Development Project annuls the need for awareness raising. In our opinion, that road has been over trodden. Instead, what needs to be done is to distil the experiences and lessons into initiatives that would win the commitment of the people to implement a production through conservation strategy. Such a strategy would be anchored first on range management rehabilitation and improvement activities through resourcing of RMAs and Grazing Associations operating at levels of the rangeland landscape from “A”, “B” and “C” grazing zones. Secondly, the strategy must promote and resource a new institutional framework for driving the range management efforts by bringing together village and area chiefs, community councillors and all associated stakeholders in each community council and across all community councils to the district level and Principal Chiefs. It is only when these institutional structures commit to a shared vision and a shared plan that agroecological principles will be reached both at the natural ecosystem level and managed ecosystem level.

The GEF-SGP can, through the OP6 grant making window, pilot this coordinated institutional framework for management of natural resources across a landscape. The MFRSC through the integrated catchment program within the Land Rehabilitation Program (Fato-fato), LHDA integrated catchment program, the corporate responsibility efforts of the various mining houses in the area, the emerging national integrated

catchment program in the Department of Water Affairs will provide co-financing structures and support for testing the agro-ecological landscape approach. Finally, a deliberate effort must be made to realign the integrated catchment management plans of the Letša-la-Letsie, Sehlabathebe and Tšehlanyane-Bokong initiatives with the institutional framework proposed above and provide clear and viable access and benefit structures that favour the communities while they ensure sustainable conservation of the resources.

8.7.4 Institutional Analysis: The Roles of Local Authorities

Resource management in Lesotho entails common-property regimes that are grounded in a set of accepted social norms and rules for the sustainable and interdependent use of collective goods. These include grazing lands, water resources and range products such as craft grasses and trees. In the SRB, range resources are components of an ecosystem which provide goods and services useful for rural livelihoods. Technically, these resources are potentially renewable. However, the realisation of that potential is somewhat illusive and depends, among other things, on institutional arrangements that users choose to adopt for resource utilisation and management.

In Lesotho, at the local level, resource management has always been a community affair strongly based on the traditional relationship in which chiefs were managers of the common property (Morapeli, 1990). The enactment of the 1989, grazing laws shifted the power bases by giving grazing associations autonomy in the management and protection of range resources within the boundaries of the Range Management Areas (RMA) controlled by the members of the association. In the RMA model, associated members of the community have exclusive grazing rights within the RMA. In the communities that adopted the RMA model, the authority over the summer grazing areas (conventionally under the jurisdiction of the principal chiefs) and the "B" grazing areas were put under the exclusive authority of the RMA committee. The village grazing areas ("C"-Grazing areas) are in most cases co-managed by RMA committees and Local Community Councils (LCC) enacted through the Local Government Act of 1997 repelled the LCC as a primary institution for promoting community development as well as biodiversity conservation including water and wetlands, rangelands and range resources including indigenous woodlands and exotic forest plantations.

The office of the Principal Chief co-ordinates all administrative issues of communities through their area chiefs. Similarly, in natural resource management, the principal chief is considered to be important and responsible for grazing management and issuance of permits for the summer grazing areas. However, at the village level the powers of the Principal Chief are delegated to the area and village chiefs as traditional administrative authority in charge of all aspects of community life. In as far as natural resource management

is concerned, chiefs are responsible for land and resource allocation in collaboration and now in collaboration with Local Community Councils. Despite perceived weaknesses and loss of authority in some cases, the chieftainship institution remains a central stakeholder in natural resource management and it is not possible to conceptualise any structure for natural resource management that excludes chiefs. In other communities the chieftainship remains conflictual with Community Councils more due to personalities than structural matters.

The Community Council is a statutory body installed for purposes of enhancing peoples' participation in issues that were otherwise left to the decisions of chiefs. However, at the Council Levels chiefs are represented. These institutions are involved in all aspects of community development including land allocation and management of natural resources especially in the "C" grazing areas. In areas where RMAs exist, the Council and the office of the chief are responsible for management of grazing in the "C" areas.

8.7.5 Typology of Potential SGP thematic Interventions

1.0 Wetlands Management

1.1 Projects reducing threats to wetlands

- 1.1.1 Overgrazing and Trampling
- 1.1.2 Overexploitation
- 1.1.3 Soil erosion
- 1.1.4 Cultivation and siltation

1.2 Eco-tourism: Hospitality industry working with communities

2.0 Range Management

- 2.1 B and C zones Maboeella – Chiefs and Local Community Councils
- 2.2 A level grazing management plans – Principal Chiefs
- 2.3 Rehabilitation and revival of RMA and Grazing Associations

3.0 Indigenous woodlands

- 3.1 Reclamation and Restoration
- 3.2 Biodiversity Conservation and Ecotourism
- 3.3 Conservation and Rehabilitation of Cultural Sites through Lebollo

4.0 National Parks and Reserves

4.1 Access and Benefits Sharing Innovations

4.2 Eco-Tourism in collaboration with communities

5.0 Integrated Catchment Management

5.1 Sustainable Forest Management

a) Bamboo plantations and business initiatives
b) Non-Timber forest products and business
c) Community forest plantations

5.2 Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
5.3 Climate Proofing Livelihoods and Investment
5.4 Greening Villages
5.5 Wildlife and Community Eco-tourism
5.6 Economic Biodiversity Conservation
5.7 Sustainable Land Management
5.8 CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platform

6.0 Climate Change and Natural Resource Management

6.1 Adaptation Actions to Sustain Ecosystem Services
6.2 Climate Change Education
6.3 Climate Change Proofing
6.4 Community Based Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

7.0 Climate Smart Agriculture and Agro-Ecology

7.1 Conservation Agriculture Systems
7.2 Organic Farming Systems

8.0 Waterscapes Cooperatives in Aquaculture
9.0 Supporting and Regulating Services in Biodiversity

9.1 Provisioning

9.1.1 Grazing
9.1.2 Thatching
9.1.3 Fuel Sources
9.1.4 Building Materials
9.1.5 Medicine
9.1.6 Food Production

9.2 Regulating

9.2.1 Stream Flow Regulation

9.2.2 Sediment Retention
9.2.3 Erosion Control

9.3 Cultural

9.3.1 Spiritual
9.3.2 Recreational

9.4 Plants and Animals
9.5 Water Supply
9.6 Natural and Accelerated Erosion Control

9.6.1 Managed ecosystems
9.6.2 Natural ecosystems including rangelands

10.0 Energy Saving Initiatives
11.0 Chemical Pollutants

11.1 Communities downstream of mining activities
11.2 Industrial pollutants outside the main landscape unit
11.3 Agrochemical management

12.0 Practice based knowledge systems and Innovations
13.0 South-South Community Innovations Exchange Platforms
14.0 Sustainable and cost-effective emissions reductions

9.0 APPENDIX 2: CONSULTATION /SCOPING STUDY REPORT

9.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Towards developing the CPS for operationalizing the 6th Operational Phase (OP6): 2015-2018, with the overall goal of supporting the creation of global environmental benefits and the safeguarding of the global environment through community and local solutions that complement and add value to national and global level action, the project team worked in close collaboration with the NC, NSC and other stakeholders to elaborate the OP6 Country Program Strategy along three key steps:

a) **OP6 Country Programme Strategy (CPS) consultations and Scoping exercise:** To initiate the development of the SGP OP6 Country Programme Strategy (OP6 CPS) an assessment and scoping exercise should be undertaken which will take stock of the results and achievements of the SGP country programme thus far and identify the priority directions for programming in OP6 in line with the SGP OP6 project document, the country's national priorities, GEF 6 programming directions, and potential for synergy with UNDP and other partner agencies.

b) **Select Landscape(s) or themes and conduct Baseline Assessment:** The Landscape Baseline Assessment process will be guided by the CPS Consultation and Scoping Exercise which, *inter alia*, lay out the consensus for the priorities and planning for delivering OP6 outcomes in Lesotho. Consequently, the Landscape Strategy will describe the landscape approach for supporting global environmental activities in line with the selected strategic initiatives in the SGP Country Programme Strategy that contribute to sustainable development at the community level.

Country Programme Strategy Finalization: Based on steps 1 & 2 above and once the Baseline Assessment process for the selected Landscape area(s) of focus has been completed and agreed, the SGP OP6 Country Programme Strategy (CPS) will be fully elaborated and finalized.

9.2 Approach / Methodology

9.2.1 The methodological Context

The Kingdom of Lesotho occupies 30, 000 km^2 of the highest part of the Drakensberg escarpment of the eastern rim of the Southern African plateau between 1500 m and 3482 m above sea level (a.s.l). This landscape is divided into Low Lands & the Senqu River Valley, Foothills, and the Mountains regions (Schmitz and Royani 1987)[46]. These physiographic regions are geographically based on elevation and agro-climatology, but coincidentally delineate livelihood zones (Lesotho VAC, 2005)[47] with variable vulnerability and resilience to climate change. Over 80 percent of the productive arable lands-and coincidentally the highest population densities of the 1.88 million population (Lesotho Census, 2006)[48] are found along a narrow belt of lowlands (20–50 km wide) along the western border with South Africa below 1800 m above sea level The foothills (1800 m–2000 m a.s.l), form a narrow strip running northeast to southwest, adjacent to the lower mountain range to the east. This region covers eight percent of the country and also supports high population densities subsistent on mixed crop and livestock systems. The Senqu River Valley (1500–1800 m a.s.l) is a major grassland area marked by shallow soils and suffers a rain shadow effect. The population in this region also depends largely on livestock and mixed farming. The mountains (2000– 3482 m a.s.l.) form approximately two thirds of the country and are primarily used for summer grazing transhumance practices. Mountains host regionally and globally significant plant and animal bio-diversity, with unique African alpine and sub-alpine habitats of the Drakensburg range and high levels of endemism (Marake, 1999)[49]. These physiographic regions are further divisible into main watershed /catchment areas. Local government administrative boundaries also configure the country into sub-constituencies under common local administration while the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security divides the country into resource centres. All of these are potential guides for delineations of the landscape units.

Unfortunately, these unique resources are increasingly being degraded following an increase in utilisation of the natural resources in the mountain area and the grazing regimes practised

[46] Schmitz G. and F. Rooyani. 1987. Lesotho Geology, Geomorphology and Soils. Morija Printing Works – Lesotho.
[47] Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee. 2005. Disaster Management Authority. Government of Lesotho.
[48] Lesotho National Population Census. 2006. Bureau of Statistics. Government of Lesotho.
[49] Marake M.V. 1999. Arable Agriculture in Lesotho. In First State of the Environment Report (ed.) K.Q. Chakela. 1999.

throughout the country. Thus, resources are facing extreme pressure from different stakeholder demands and users. Associated with this is the issue of the land tenure system that allows free utilization of the resources without proper mechanisms in place for preservation and conserving those resources. Consequently, the bio-diversity and natural resources base are vulnerable and at risk of further deterioration due to climate change induced impacts on water and land resources, land degradation, deforestation induced by biomass fuel demands and in selected reaches of the major landscapes, the issues of chemical pollutants in land and water resources is taking significant proportions. The GEF-SGP can, among other livelihood challenges, address these concerns over a coordinated and integrated landscape to catalyze community led interventions or conservation strategies to halt this trend. The history of conservation and environmental management in Lesotho has raised concerns about the deterioration and lack of adequate protection of the bio-diversity, wildlife, water and natural resources across the Lesotho landscape[50].

Despite these observations and concerns, only a few areas in Lesotho are under some sort of protection measures. The rest of the landscape has no formal protection or clear conservation strategy led by the communities in particular. The exceptions are the 6,500 ha protected Sehlabathebe National Park and the Tšehlanyane national park and biosphere reserve which are closed from the commons exploitation. Probably, the major intriguing issue and the most difficult to resolve is the human element, whose livelihood depend on these areas and their resources where they also reside in the very same fragile areas. The challenge posed here is: How do you balance these two and sometimes opposing objectives? In other words, how do you ensure the conservation of this unique area while at the same time ensuring that the people's livelihoods and development are not negatively affected?

The GEF-SGP is meant to address bio-diversity conservation, Biodiversity Conservation, Climate Change Mitigation, Land Degradation, Protection of International Waters, Chemicals in a number of strategic initiatives which are multi-focal in nature: landscape approaches, climate smart agro-ecology practices, low carbon energy access benefits, chemical management.

[50] Marake M.V. S. Gedion, J.E. Carlsson, Y. Khatiwada and M. Segerros. 1998. The Production through Conservation (PTC) Program: 1981 to 1996 – An Historical Document.

The thrust of the SGP initiatives is to catalyze innovative ways to strengthen the legislative frameworks such that communities can be role players in implementing the multi-lateral international conventions as well as the planning of community development projects and eco-tourism infrastructure. Thus SGP country strategies must focus attention on the unique alpine ecosystems of the mountains, the fragile foothills and lowlands including the Senqu River Valley. The strategies must seek to stimulate community participation and involvement in local government initiatives by being empowered to make proposals for a possible network of protected areas, targeting specific bio-diversity "hot spots" as well as protecting bio-diversity within community managed rangelands, forest and crop lands. However, this kind of intervention will require policy review as well as putting in place the right development incentives and regulatory systems at local, national and regional levels. Our study approach sought to: i) investigate the social context of the potential landscape (s); ii) identify local stakeholders and their associated land management practices; and iii) identify potential impacts of mitigation activities.

9.3 Approach to the Scoping Study

9.3.1 Process Step 1: OP6 Country Programme Strategy consultations and Scoping exercise

A) Objective (s)

(a) To take stock of the results and achievements of the SGP country programme: 2008 - 2015

The thrust of this objective was to conduct a review of the SGP OP5 country program in order to establish key results and experiences including the salient objectives of the Lesotho Country Programme Strategy (CPS) from 2008 to date. This information was derived from the programme documents and consultations with the NC and NSC.

9.3.2 Methodology for achieving process step 1 (a): To take stock of the results and achievements of the SGP country programme: 2008 – 2015.

Task	Activities	Output	Indicator	Responsibility
Document review process	Establish list of key documents	Electronic & hard copies of documents filed	Library of key documents	Project Leader
	Review documents	List of documents read	Integration of ideas from the documents into the project	Project Leader
	Conceptualize project steps and work plan	Inception Report	Copy of Inception Report	➢ Project Leader ➢ GIS Expert
Consultation with NC and NCS	Review and agree inception report	Approved Project work plan	Approved Inception Report	Project Leader

9.3.3 To identify the priority directions for programming in OP6

In the light of the foregoing the CPS was developed to align with SGP OP6 strategic initiatives,

- ❑ Community landscape conservation
- ❑ Climate smart innovative agro-ecology
- ❑ Low carbon energy access co-benefits
- ❑ Local to global chemical management coalitions
- ❑ CSO-government policy and planning dialogue platforms
- ❑ Promoting social inclusion
  - ➢ Gender mainstreaming
  - ➢ Youth involvement
- ❑ Global reach for citizen practice based knowledge programme
  - ➢ Digital library of community innovations
  - ➢ South-South community innovation exchange;

In addition, the CPS is crafted to effect national priorities in national strategy documents (NSDP 2012-2017; Departmental Strategic Plans) and consultations with relevant government ministries and agencies. Consequently, the CPS consultation and scoping process extended beyond the NSC to involve CSOs, government and development partners. In the light of the five focal areas of GEF-SGP: biodiversity conservation, Climate Change mitigation, protection of international waters, land degradation and sustainable forest management, chemicals threats addressed through the OP 6 strategic initiatives, all ministries hosting national focal points for the focal area conventions (CBD, UNFCCC, Ramsar, POPs, UNCCD and those dealing with chemicals were consulted. To this end, the following government ministries were consulted in the process of establishing national priorities aligned with the SGP OP6 strategic initiatives outlined above:

i) Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation
ii) Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
iii) Ministry of Local Government
iv) Ministry of Water
v) Ministry of Planning
vi) Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture (MTEC)
vii) Ministry Energy and Meteorology

In addition, a range of CSOs were consulted:

- Rural Self Help Development Association
- World Vision
- Grow Lesotho
- Send-A-Cow
- Action Aid
- Serumula Development Association

as well as the farmer's groupings in Lesotho e.g. Lesotho Farmer's Union (LENAFU), Lesotho Wool and Mohair Association were also consulted. A stratified selection of CBOs, Youth and Women's groups were consulted at each landscape sampling point. Environmental networks and associations were also consulted. Table 1 is a potential and indicative list of CBOs upon which consultative strategies were designed particularly during the baseline assessment stage. The

UNDP country office was engaged through the NC and NSC. Water Sector agencies such as the Lesotho LHDA, Metolong and Ministry of Water were also consulted. Development Partners such as the FAO, USAID and European Union were consulted. The purpose was to identify the niche of SGP for programming in OP6 in order to focus the programme to deliver the strategic impact expected in terms of the OP6 directions and initiatives in order to achieve a broad consensus on the country programme approach in OP6.

9.3.4 Methodology for achieving Process Step 1 (b): To identify the priority directions for programming in OP6

Task	Activities	Output	Indicator	Responsibility
Compile National Priorities	Distil national priorities from strategic documents	National priorities	List of national priorities	Project Leader
	Undertake consultations with key stakeholders	National priorities identified by stakeholders	List of national priorities	➢ Project Leader ➢ Research Assistants
	Conceptualize project steps and work plan	Inception Report	Copy of Inception Report	➢ Project Leader ➢ GIS Expert
Input into the development and /or validation of landscape ideas	Consultative discussions with government and non-governmental stakeholders	➢ Validated landscapes ➢ Endorsed strategy for baseline assessment	➢GIS maps of landscape units ➢strategy for baseline assessment	➢ Project Leader ➢ Subject Matter Experts
Consultation with NC and NSC	➢ Review and agree national priorities ➢ Review and approve baseline assessment strategy	Approved baseline assessment strategy & work plan	Baseline assessment strategy	Project Leader

9.3.5 Process Step 2: Selected Landscape Baseline Assessment

A) Background

The Landscape Baseline Assessment process was guided by the CPS Consultation and Scoping Exercise outlined in Process Step 1 above. The Landscape Strategy developed sought to

describe the landscape approach for supporting global environmental activities in line with the selected strategic initiatives in the SGP Country Programme Strategy that contribute to sustainable development at the community level. The baseline assessment was conducted to establish information about the current state of the landscapes which can be used as a basis for setting goals and desired outcomes and to elucidate key challenges, global environmental issues, and identify the opportunities for community and CSO actions. The baseline assessment process included community consultations, and ensured participation of the range of stakeholders in the landscape, including local authorities, civil society, community organizations, and other relevant partners.

B) Objective (s):

i) To elaborate a landscape-wide baseline

ii) To develop a landscape strategy that will guide grant-making with typology of projects proposed, and sets of indicators for selected SGP strategic initiatives identified.

The baseline assessment included the following key elements:

a) Identification of the landscape context and background, including threats to the global environment, sustainable development, and key actions and plans underway, and identification of relevant stakeholders within and outside the landscape who need to be involved and play a role. The boundaries of the landscape should be identified along with an analysis of the baseline activities that the SGP Country programme can build on as well as the gaps that it can intervene to address.

b) Elaborating SGP OP6 Strategic initiatives within the landscape/seascape context. Based on results of the CPS Consultation and Scoping process, the country will have identified the selective strategic priorities for grant making. Within the Baseline Assessment the implementation of the priority OP6 strategic initiatives selected by countries will be elaborated within the landscape context with

i) Typologies of projects developed

ii) Indicators and targets and results framework developed.

iii) Modalities for implementation will be proposed, such as possibilities for linking and connecting projects within the landscape for learning and exchange, fostering engagement with local authorities, identifying policy influence and scaling up opportunities, promoting participatory M&E that enables community involvement, and facilitating knowledge management and capture as well as dissemination of results.

The key output of this task was a report presenting the baseline analysis, the elaboration of the SGP strategy within the landscape (s) and the modalities for implementation. The report outlines the consultative process followed and the results of community consultations held.

C) Preliminary thoughts on Landscapes

The context of the SGP's implementation in OP6 is the development of landscape approaches appropriate to Lesotho with the view to better focus grant-making and promote strategic programming and clustering of small grant projects with the aim to achieve greater impact and lead to synergies and opportunities for scaling up. Given the geographic size of Lesotho (30, 000 km^2), we initially proposed to open the whole country for access to the SGP through a number of landscapes:

- Mountain Landscapes
- Foothills Landscape
- Lowlands Landscape
- Senqu River Valley Landscape

Nevertheless, we still recognized that the final approach would be further informed and modified by the consultative processes and emerging national priorities. We were also cognizant of the fact that within the given landscape areas a number of ecosystems supported livelihoods and the manner in which they are managed has local and global impacts on the SGP OP6 strategic initiatives . In that light the initial outline was as follows:

a) Natural Ecosystems

- Forest Ecosystems: Indigenous and Exotic
- Rangelands: Maboeella and RMAs

- Wetlands conservation and management

b) Agroecological /Managed Ecosystems

- Household Farms
- Homesteads and gardens
- Green Villages: Green belts, Solar and domestic water systems

c) Waterscapes or Major dams

- Lesotho Highlands Water dams - Fish Farms
- Lesotho Lowlands Water dams - Fish Farms

9.3.6 Methodology for achieving Process Step 2: Selected Landscape Baseline Assessment

Task	Activities	Output	Indicator	Responsibility
Consultation with local stakeholders	Consultative workshop with District Council & Community councils	➢ DC familiarized with SGP ➢ Landscape priorities ➢ Typology of projects	Workshop attendance list	➢ Lead Consultant ➢ Subject matter experts ➢ Research assistants
	Undertake consultations with other key stakeholders	➢ Landscape development priorities ➢ Typology of projects	List of consulted informants	➢ Lead Consultant ➢ Subject matter experts ➢ Research Assistants
Institutional Analysis	Mapping of key institutions in the landscape	➢ Landscape development priorities ➢ Map of key role players	➢ List of institutions	➢ Lead Consultant ➢ Subject matter experts ➢ Research Assistants
Produce Baseline Assessment Report	Compilation of baseline assessment report	➢ Draft baseline assessment report	➢ Baseline assessment report	➢ Lead Consultant ➢ Subject matter experts
Consultation with NC and NCS	➢ Review of baseline assessment Report	Approved baseline assessment report	Final Baseline Assessment Report	➢ Lead Consultant ➢ Subject matter experts

D) Proposed Field Consultative Strategy

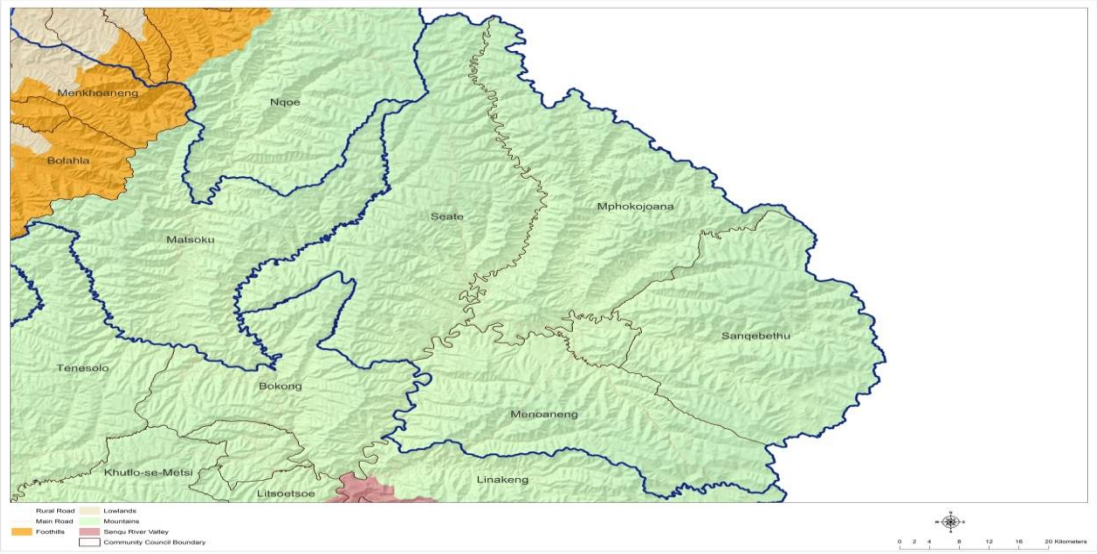
Sampling Strategy within Landscape Units over 10 Districts					
Landscape Unit	**Sample Districts**	**Sample Councils**	**Ecosystem**		
			Natural	**Managed**	**Waterscapes**
Mountains	Mokhotlong	Menoaneng			
		Mphokojoana			
		Sanqebethu			
	Thaba-Tseka	Bokong			
		Tenesolo			
		Khutlo-se-Metsi			
	Qacha's Nek	Tsoelikana			
		Qanya			
		Qacha's Nek			
Foothills	Botha-Bothe	Ngoajane			
		Likila			
		Tša-le-Moleka			
	Berea	Makeoana			
		Tebe-tebe			
		Motanasela			
	Maseru	Kubake			
		Likolobeng			
		Makhoalipana			
Lowlands	Leribe (northern)	'Mamafubelu			
		Litjotjela			
		Manka			
	Mafeteng (southern)	Metsi-Maholo			
		Tšana-Talana			
		Qibing			
	Mohale's Hoek (southern)	Siloe			
		Mashaleng			
		Khoelenya			
Senqu River Valley	Mohale's Hoek	Khoelenya			
		Lithipeng			
		Qhoasing			
	Quthing	Telle			
		Quthing			
		Qomoqomong			
Waterscapes within major landscapes	Thaba-Tseka, Leribe & Botha-Bothe	Katse Dam			
	Maseru	Metolong			
		Meja-Metalana			**Motimposo**
		Maqalika			**Khubetsoana**
		Mohale			
	Botha-Bothe	'Muela			
		Kotsongkoaneng			

It was envisaged that a range of NGOs, CBOs and associations: farmers, youth and women groups operating within vicinity of the selected community councils would be consulted during the

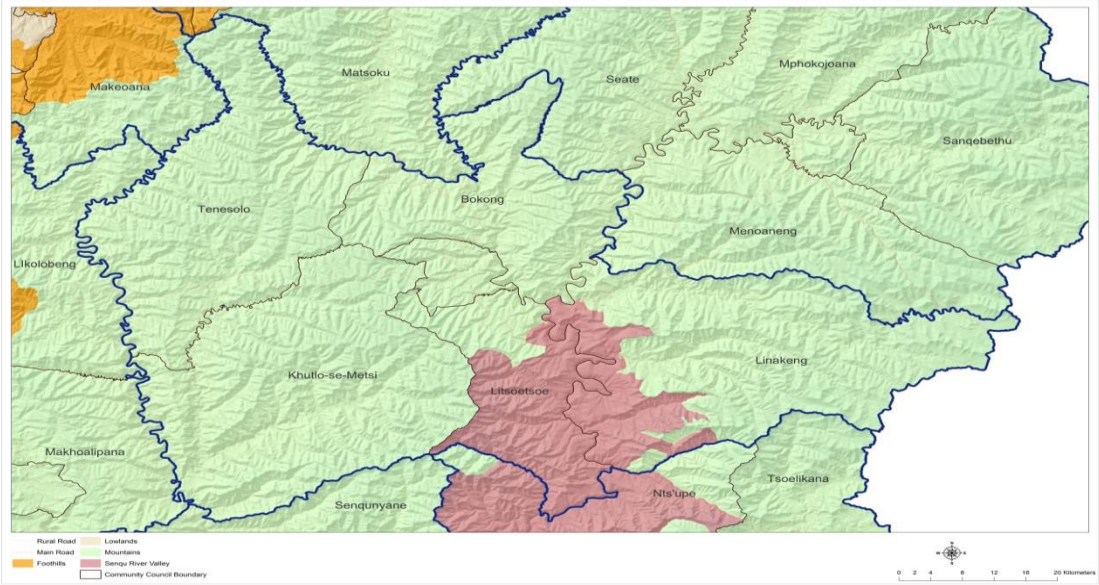
baseline assessment task. An array of field maps was developed to guide the proposed baseline assessment process.

i) Mountain landscape

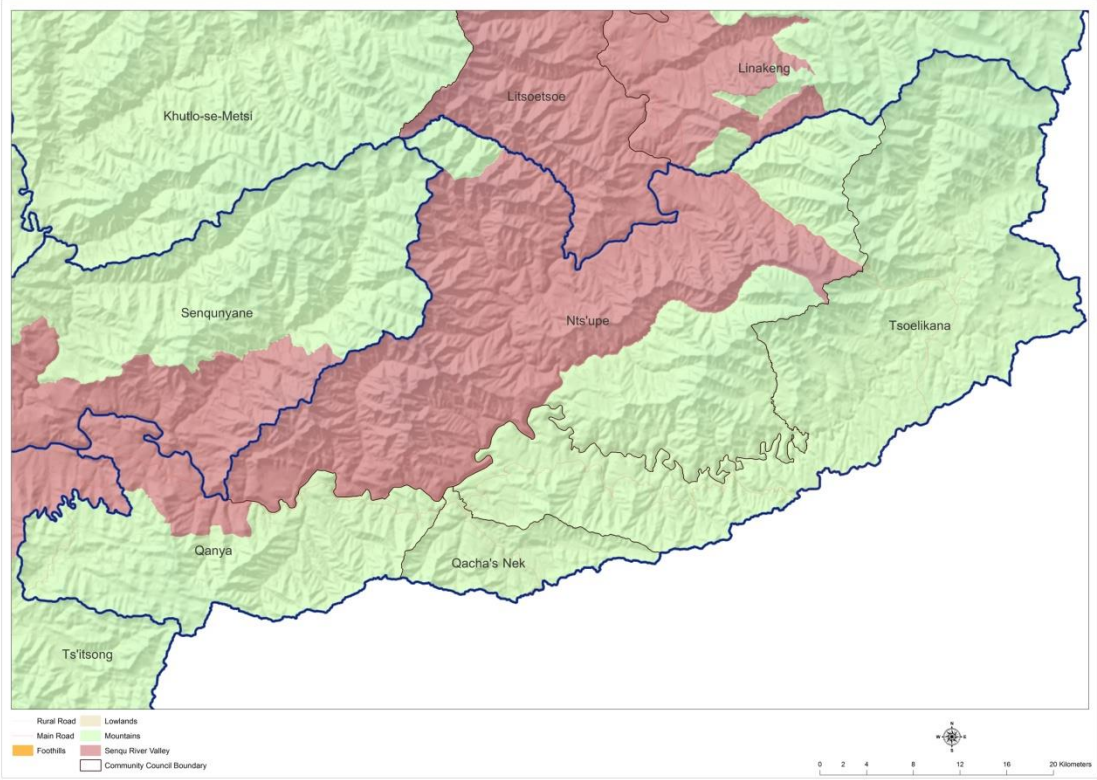
- ❑ Mokhotlong: Menoaneng, Mphokojoana & Sanqebethu



- ❑ Thaba-Tseka: Bokong, Tenesolo and Khutlo-se-Metsi

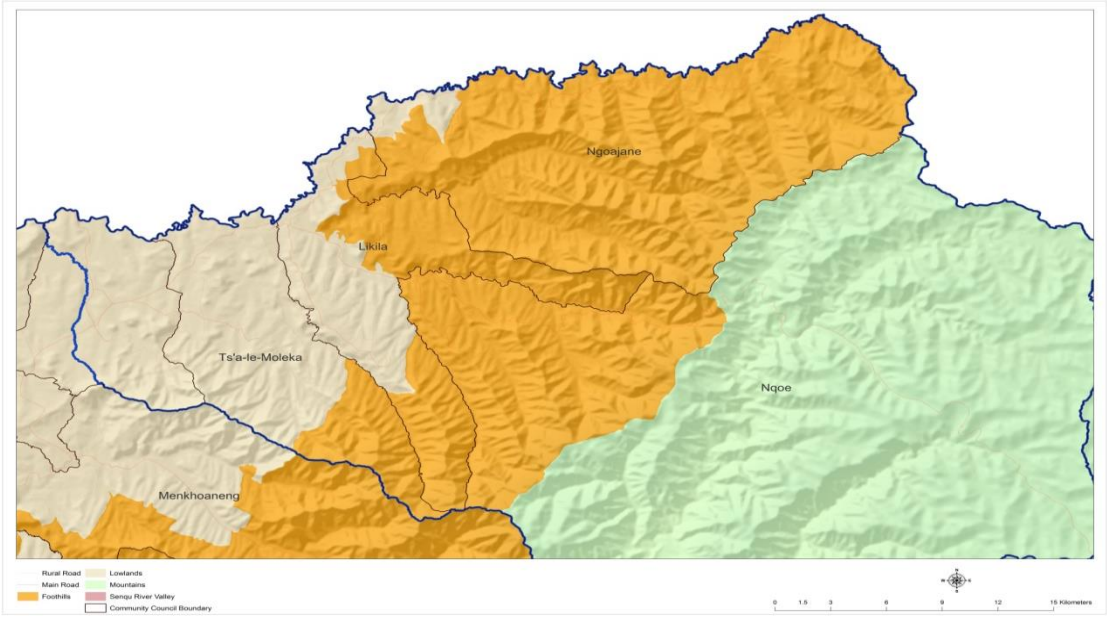


- **Qacha's Nek: Tsoelikana, Qanya and Qacha's Nek**

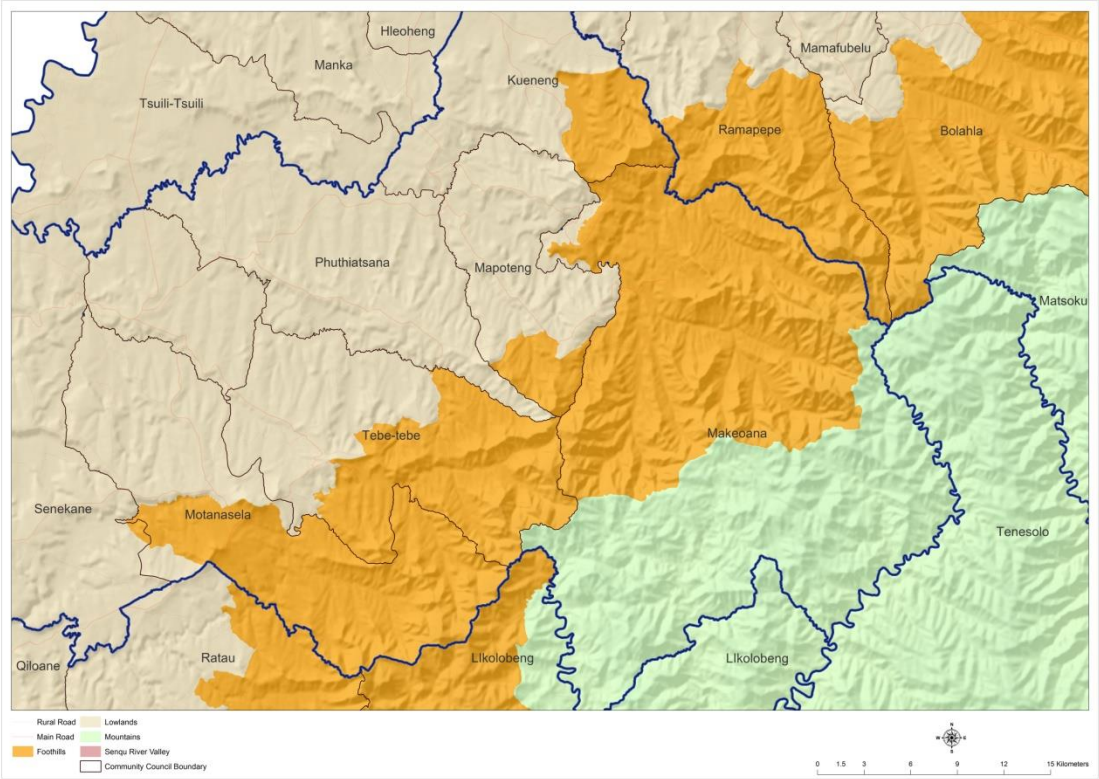


ii) Foothills Landscape

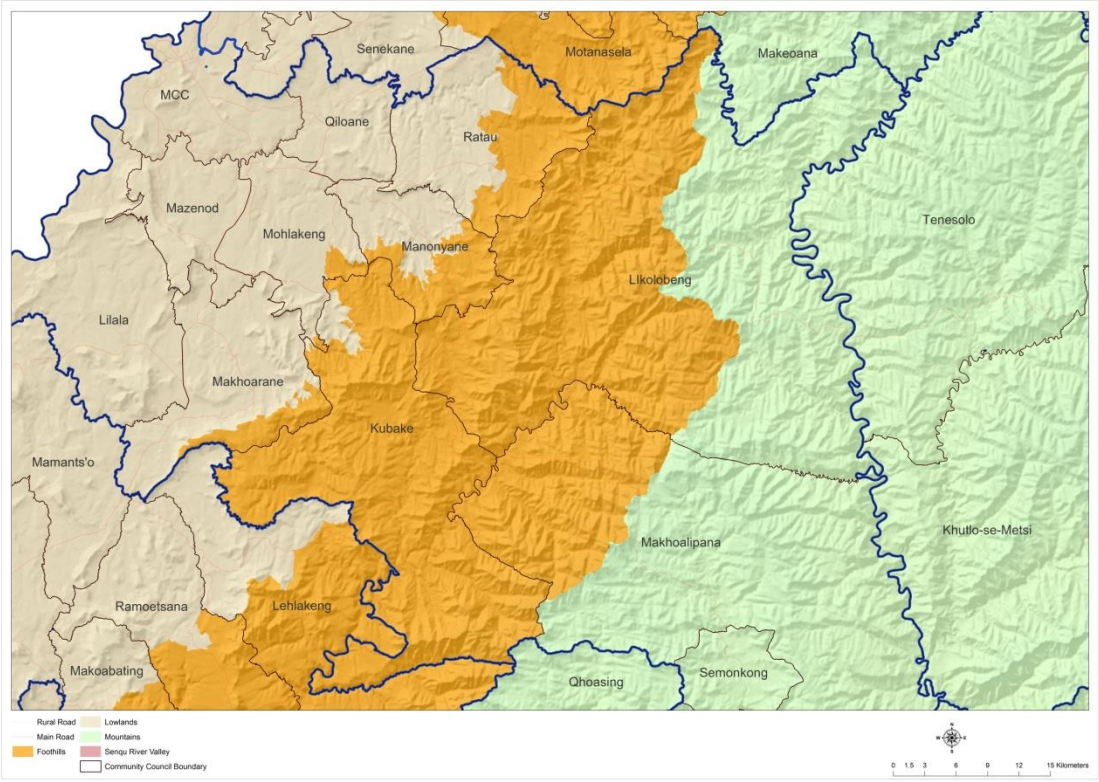
- Botha-Bothe: Ngoajane, Likila and Tša-le-Moleka



- Berea: Makeoana, Tebetebe and Motanasela

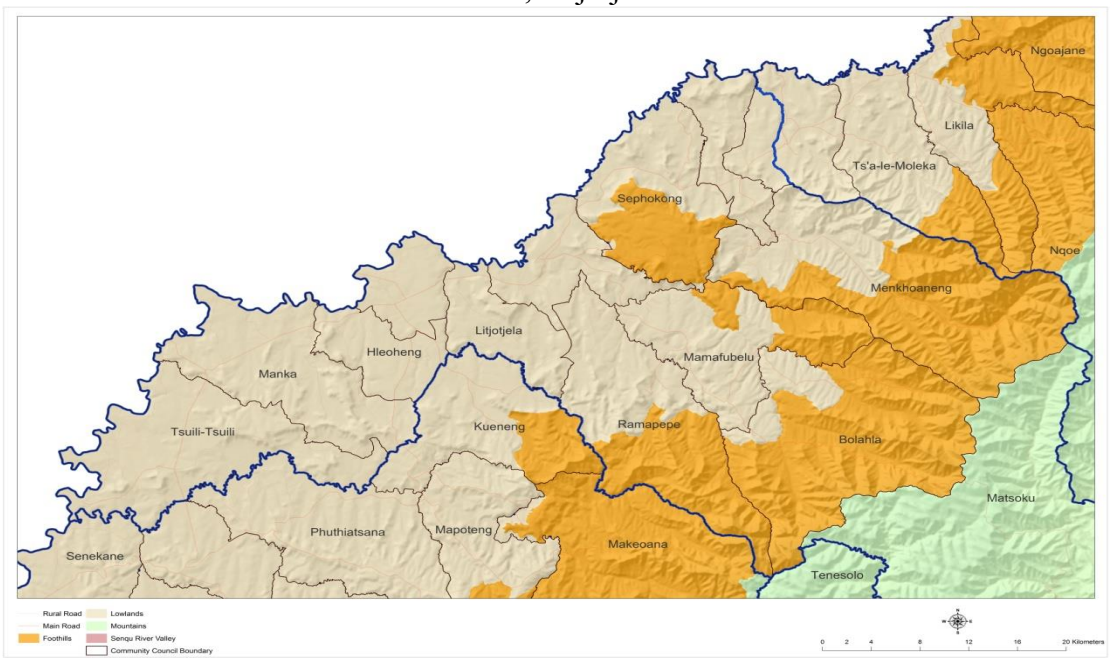


- Maseru: Kubake, Likolobeng and Makhoalipana

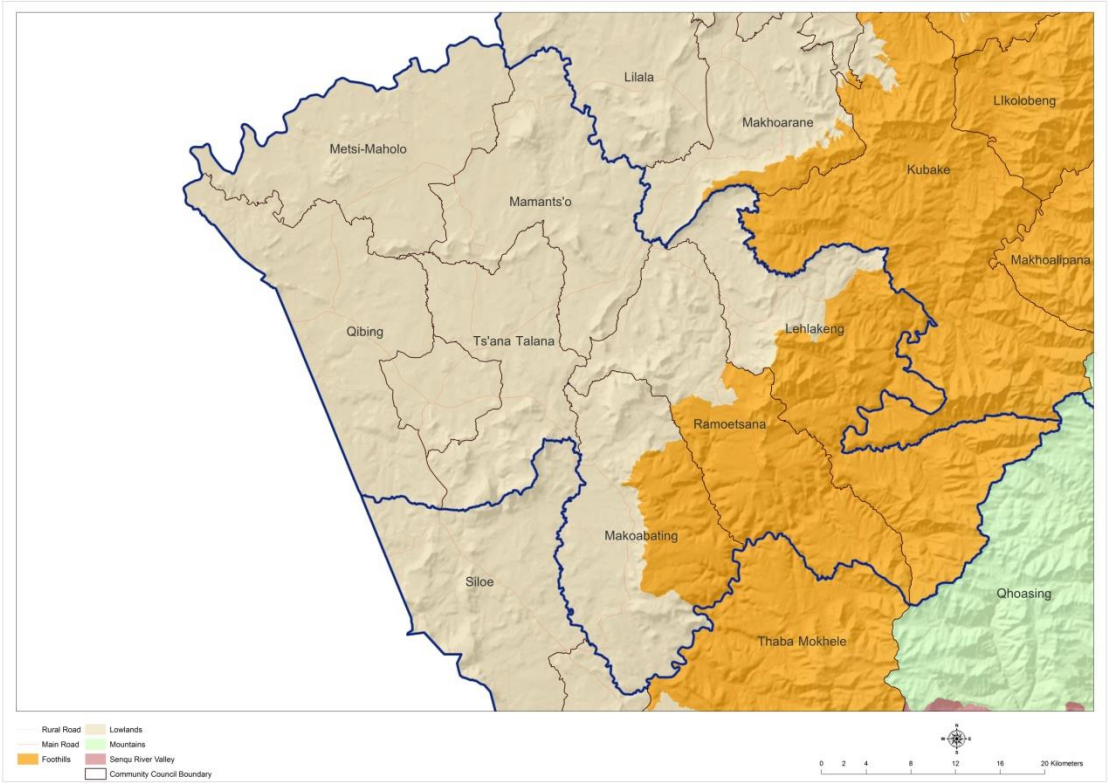


iii) Lowlands Landscapes

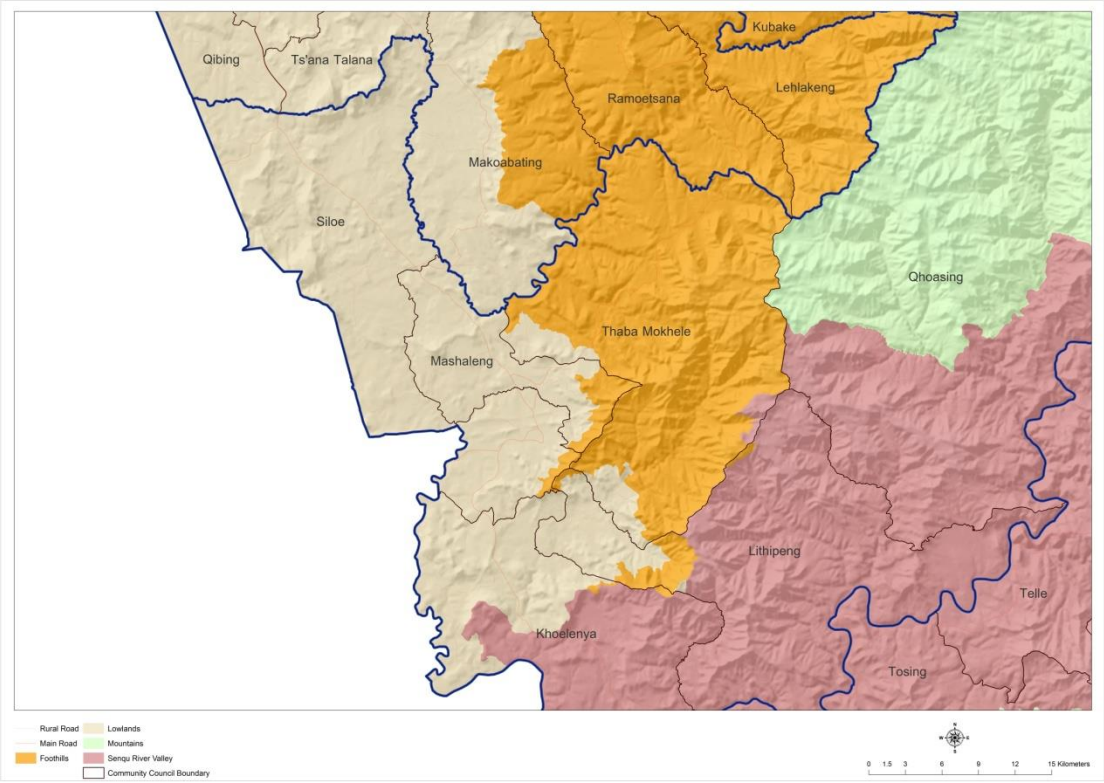
- Leribe: ‘Mamafubelu, Litjotjela and Manka



- Mafeteng: Metsi-Maholo, Tšana-Talana and Qibing

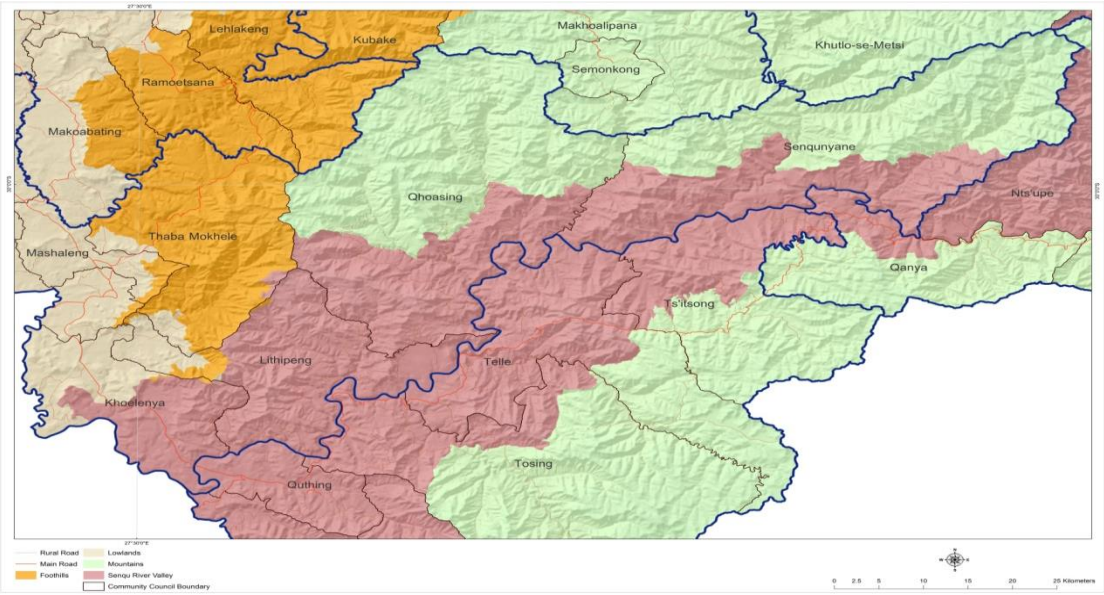


- Mohale's Hoek: Siloe, Mashaleng and Khoelenya

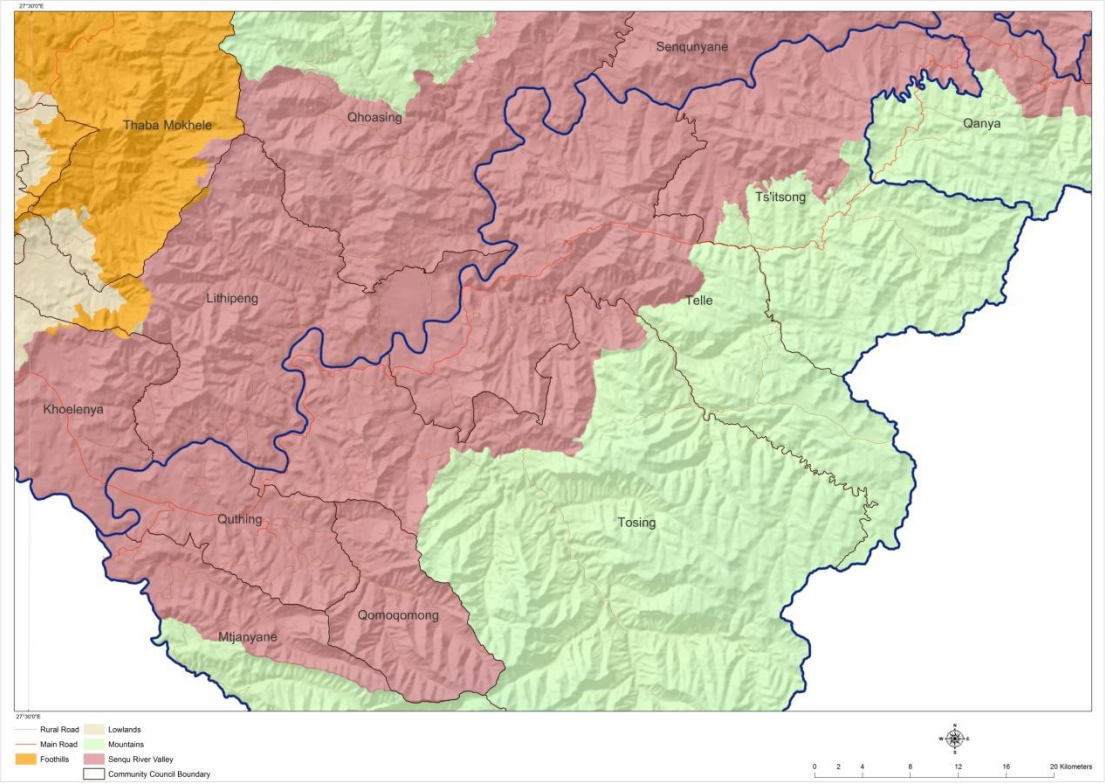


iv) Senqu River Valley Landscapes

- Mohale's Hoek: Khoelenya, Lithipeng and Qhoasing



- ❑ Quthing: Telle, Quthing and Qomoqomong



v) Waterscapes

- ❑ **Lesotho Highlands Water Project**
  - ➢ Katse reservoir
  - ➢ Mohale reservoir
  - ➢ 'Muela reservoir
- ❑ **Lowlands Water**
  - ➢ Kotsong-koaneng reservoir - Botha-Bothe
  - ➢ Maqalika reservoir – Maseru
  - ➢ Mejametala reservoir – Ha Seoli

Furthermore, this process of developing a CPS will embed the following broad elements within the Strategy, communications, outreach and capacity development about OP6 and its strategic initiatives. Such communications should serve to explain the need to focus SGP on landscape areas for achievement of greater strategic impact through clustering of projects and achievement of synergies.

An interim report documenting the consultation and scoping process with key agreements on the CPS approach was produced in the form of a draft outline of the CPS awaiting a detailed baseline assessment prior to finalization.

9.3.7 Methodology for achieving Process Step 3: Country Programme Strategy Finalization

Task	Activities	Output	Indicator	Responsibility
Finalize CPS process	➢ Integrate baseline finding into the CPS	➢ Draft CPS	➢ Draft CPS	➢ Project Leader ➢ Subject matter experts
Review Draft CPS	➢ Submit draft CPS report for review by NC, NSC and CMPT	➢ Revised CPS report	➢ Revised copy	➢ Project Leader
Final Report	➢ Incorporate comments of NC, NSC & CMPT into draft CPS Report ➢ Submit Final CPS Report	Revised CPS Report	Final CPS report	➢ Project Leader

9.4 Final Selection and Validation of the Landscape

Section 3.1.1 of the CPS Report read together with Section 1.0 of the Baseline Report (Annex 1) outline the modified strategy employed in the selection of the final landscape unit. This modification was a departure from the initial thoughts approved in the inception report by the stakeholders. Thus the new approach was validated by the stakeholders as described in the workshop proceeding of the validation workshop herein under.

Summary Proceedings

GEF –Small Grants Programme

Consensus Building Workshop: Priority Landscape(s) for SGP in OP 6

18 May 2016, UN Conference Hall

GEF-SGP LESOTHO c/o UNDP Lesotho, 13 United Nations Road P.O. Box 301 Maseru 100, Lesotho Tel: (266) 22313790 Fax: (266) 22310042






1. BACKGROUND

The **Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP)** provides non-governmental and community-based organizations (NGOs/CBOs) in developing countries with grants to enable them to tackle global environmental challenges[51] while addressing local sustainable development needs. SGP is a GEF corporate programme, implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and executed by United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). SGP Lesotho started financing projects in 2008. Since then, it has succeeded in funding and providing technical support for more than 50 grant projects.

In its 6th Operational Phase (OP6) which will be under implementation during 2015 to 2018, SGP has the following goal: "*to support the creation of global environmental benefits and the safeguarding of the global environment through community and local solutions that complement and add value to national and global level action";* with the overall objective *"global environmental benefits secured through community-based initiatives and actions".*

A key element of SGP's implementation in OP6 is the development of landscape/seascape approaches to better focus grant-making and promote strategic programming and clustering of small grant projects for greater impact, synergies and opportunities for scaling up. Following a call for proposals to solicit Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to undertake a preparatory process for the development of a Country Programme Strategy for OP6, The NUL was engaged to carry out:

- *Multi-stakeholder consultations*
- *Identification of priority landscape(s)/seascape(s)*
- *Development of baseline assessment(s), and*
- *Elaboration of the Country Programme Strategy (CPS) for OP6*

Following the inception workshop, multi-stakeholder consultations were undertaken by way of interviews, one-on-one meetings and meetings with selected government departments. On the basis of the outcome of the consultations and some literature review of SGP and national documents, a consultative exploratory review of Lesotho's major river basins (*Mohokare*, *Senqu* and *Makhaleng*) was undertaken resulting in the country being divided into three river basins, viewed as landscapes.

A consensus building workshop was therefore convened, on May 18, 2016, bringing together Lesotho Council of NGOs (LCN), Multi-lateral Environmental Agreement National Focal Points, some SGP grantees, farmers associations, line government departments, the European Union, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), GEF CSO national representative and the SGP National Steering Committee. (*Annex 1*)

[51] The GEF's focal areas include: biodiversity, climate change, sustainable land management, international waters, and chemicals.

2. THE WORKSHOP AGENDA AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Agenda

The Workshop had six agenda items including: (i) Opening Session, (ii) Objectives of the Workshop; (iii) The SGP Approach in OP 6; (iv) GEF SGP OP 6 Priority Landscape(s) - Approach; (v) Discussion and Selection of GEF SGP OP 6 Priority Landscape(s); and (vi) Next Steps and closure. (*Annex 2*)

2.1.1 Opening Session

The Chairperson of the National Steering Committee (NSC) for the GEF Small Grants Programme – Lesotho, *Ms. 'Masenate Moremoholo,* welcomed all to the workshop, in particular the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative (DRR), *Ms. Christy Ahenkora*. The Chairperson explained that the meeting started off with a closed session for the NSC, which stated at 8:00 hours. Without further ado, she invited *Madam Ahenkora* to deliver her opening remarks.

The UNDP DRR started off by thanking the NSC for steering the GEF Small Grants Programme over the years. She pointed out that the programme has a footprint that she wishes to witness in person by visiting some of the community projects supported by the SGP in Lesotho. Projects are all over the country which now makes it a bit difficult to cover a sizeable population and sustainability and scaling up are therefore a bit of a challenge, she added. The DRR explained that as a good project management practice, it was time for the SGP to pause and reflect and move forward hence the adoption of the landscape approach for operational phase 6 of the Programme. She expressed her excitement about the new approach and thanked the NUL for taking up the challenge of leading the process for the development of the OP6 Country Programme Strategy that will guide Programme implementation for the next four years. She explained that this process presents research opportunities for students to gain some hands on experience; and an opportunity for the NUL-UNDP engagement and partnership to be broadened. She went on to emphasize the importance of community engagement throughout, to determine their needs, and harness their knowledge and expertise to enhance sustainability of project results over the long term. The DRR concluded her remarks by urging all to be open in their exchanges to facilitate production of a practical document and a framework that will guide the NSC and all partners; a document that can facilitate programme evaluation and documentation of lessons learned; and help us keep an eye on environmental sustainability.

2.1.2 Objectives and Expected Results

Following a round of introductions by all participants, the SGP National Coordinator, *Ms. Nthabiseng Majara* presented the workshop objectives as follows:

The main objectives of the workshop were:

- Description of the approach adopted for the CPS development process, with particular reference to the process for identification of potential landscapes
- Consensus building and prioritization of landscape(s) for GEF SGP intervention in GEF 6

2.1.3 The SGP Approach in OP 6

The Presentation which was made by the SGP *National Coordinator* centered on (i) the rational for the landscape/seascape approach, (ii) aspects to consider, (iii) definition of characteristics and (iv) describing the community landscape/seascape conservation outcomes.

The table below presents a summary of the presentation.

The SGP Approach in OP 6

Why a landscape focus?	**Landscape/Seascape: aspects to consider**
▶ Isolated projects are unable to impact larger scale ecological, social, economic processes ▶ Not just more projects, but also synergies among initiatives for greater impacts – up scaling; intercommunity projects ▶ Strengthening of social capital – Strengthen networks – Promote advocacy – Share knowledge and build capacity ▶ Measurement of impacts – common baseline assessment and landscape strategy; shared vision and outcomes; common M&E framework ▶ Maximize impact of scarce resources ▶ Cost efficiency of operations	▶ Scale of landscape/seascape ▶ Ecosystem features (shared objectives, common concerns) ▶ Global significance (i.e. *Biodiversity, International Waters, Lands Degradation*, etc.) ▶ Social groups, Community organizations ▶ Economic activities ▶ Threats (can include *Chemicals, CC, Energy needs*) ▶ Opportunities (for *demonstration, community action, integrated approaches*) – Build on existing landscape focus where possible ▶ Potential for synergy (with FSPs, other programmes, govt. plans) ▶ Are there entry points for SGP? ▶ Practical considerations (*accessible, avoid conflicts, monitoring, operational cost*, etc.) ▶ What are the resources available for grant making?
Landscape/seascape approach – defining characteristics	**Community landscape/seascape conservation Outcomes**
▶ *participatory planning* from the outset ▶ *adaptive management* throughout the process ▶ use of *relevant indicators* ▶ creation of *a local advisory/governance* body for the target landscape ▶ linking grants with *capacity-building* and other activities ▶ nurturing a *network* in the landscape	▶ Community organizations develop and implement *adaptive landscape management strategies* that address social, economic and environmental sustainability and build resilience ▶ Community interventions produce *global environmental* and *local sustainable development benefits* that underpin landscape/seascape management

2.1.4 GEF SGP OP 6 Priority Landscape(s) – Approach

The Project Team Leader, *Dr. Makoala Marake*, on behalf of his Team, made a detailed presentation on the process that led to the proposed landscape. He started his presentation by reminding all that the initial thought as presented during the inception workshop was to follow the agro-ecological zonation in defining landscapes, an idea that has since changed following discussions that ensued at inception and after further consultations with the National Coordinator and stakeholders. The Table below presents the agro-ecological approach envisaged at project inception and the modified approach that now follows major river basis.

<table>
<tr><th colspan="3">Criteria for identifying landscapes to implement agro-ecological projects</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">❑ Landscapes with farming systems that may substantially contribute to food and livelihood security of local communities representing the majority of their livelihood provisions.
All landscape units in general fit this criteria, however:</td></tr>
<tr><td>Makhaleng River Basin</td><td>Mohokare River Basin</td><td>Senqu River Basin (SRB)</td></tr>
<tr><td>➢ The Makhaleng is too small with much lower populations</td><td>➢ The target catchments of the Mohokare are not contiguous on the landscape and comparatively low on issues of global significance</td><td>➢ The SRB constitutes almost 50% of the country across a number of district jurisdictions and supports the much less privileged communities deriving livelihoods from livestock and arable farming systems including those most threatened by climate change</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">❑ Landscapes endowed with agricultural biodiversity and genetic resources (species, varieties & breeds), as well as other biodiversity such as wild relatives, pollinators and wildlife associated with the agricultural system and landscape
- SRB hosts the greatest agricultural biodiversity with the greatest use of OPV that are indigenous to the areas
- Natural biodiversity is also greatest in SRB with hotspots for wildlife and nature reserves of global significance</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">❑ Landscapes nurtured by farmers and / peoples which still maintain invaluable knowledge, indigenous technology and management systems of natural resources, including seeds, biota, land, water.
- The SRB is populated by rural farming communities with invaluable knowledge of natural resources and survival and adaptive skills for livelihood based on livestock farming and agriculture in a very difficult environment
- Most communities still practice indigenous grazing management strategies and practices of maboeella</td></tr>
</table>

- ❑ **Landscapes with groups organized in social organizations and/or networks, including customary institutions for agro-ecological management, normative arrangements for resource access and benefit sharing, etc.**
  - *In the greater SRB we have RMA and CBO associated around a number of initiatives including biodiversity conservations*
  - *In SRB there CBO facing challenges of benefit sharing in national parks and nature reserves*
  - *In the upper catchments of SRB there are waterscapes with opportunities for exploring resource access and benefit sharing e.g. Katse and Mohale dams*
- ❑ **Landscape features resulting from human management, that provide particularly ingenious or practical solutions to environmental challenges (i.e. water management, soil conservation) and create opportunities for enhancement of biodiversity conservation, and collective recreational, aesthetic, artistic, educational, spiritual, and/or scientific uses**.
  - *The potential across the greater SRB for water management and soil conservation is high given that the region provides the head waters of three major water project initiatives of the LHDP with the largest wetland sites in the country*
  - *Letša-la-Letsie is a Ramsar site and Sehlabathebe is a national park with transfrontier networks with South Africa both with recreational, aesthetic, educational and scientific uses*

Landscape Strategies

- ❑ **Landscape strategies address inter-related challenges at the landscape level and propose integrated economic, ecological and social solutions. When looking for ways to address global challenges — including poverty eradication, food security, climate change and environmental sustainability — concerted, holistic actions at the local level with impacts at global level are critical.**
  - *The SRB landscape unit, given its size and range of environmental /ecological issues therein, provides the best platform for SGP to float themes addressing economic, ecological and social challenges*
- ❑ **Effective governance of production landscapes calls for formal or informal institutions that can represent multiple stakeholders with an integrated landscape plan.**
- ❑ **Successful governance of integrated landscapes does not necessarily require the establishment of formal state institutions at the landscape level**
  - *Mechanisms that create connections and communities of interest across the landscape may be more effective.*

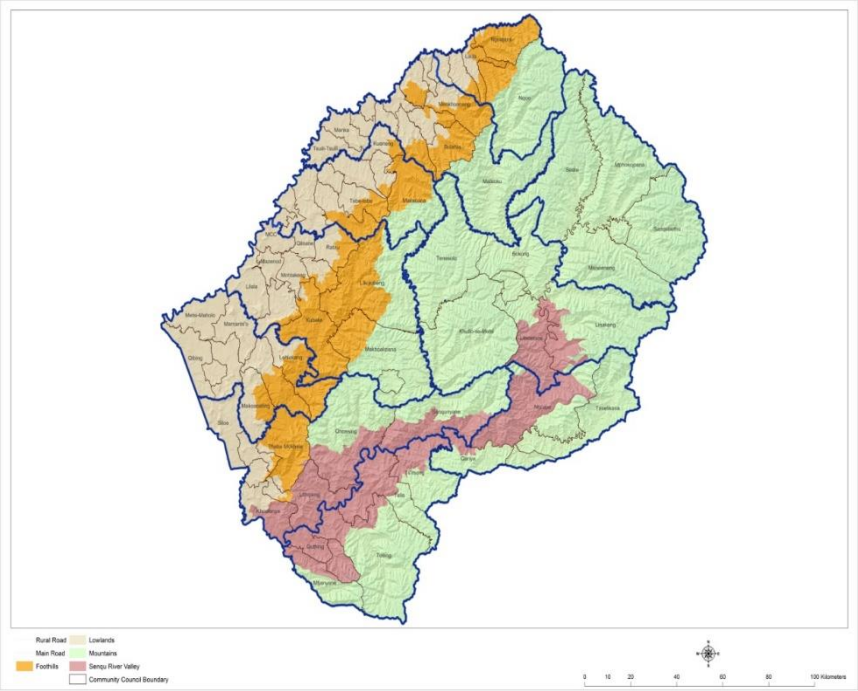
- ❑ **Knowledge sharing and dissemination of lessons learned is critical to scale up successful interventions at the landscape level and beyond.**
  - *Community Council structures would innovative social institutions vehicles for knowledge sharing and dissemination of lessons at a landscape level and district wise*
  - *These together with CBOs and NGOs would also carry information dissemination essential for building the adaptive management capacities of community organizations*
  - *Government institutions would also be on board*

- ❑ **Generating knowledge requires an accessible methodological approach to innovation, analysis of the experience and dissemination of lessons learned and good practices**.
- ❑ **This knowledge is based on locally specific evidence that can be transmitted from person to person and group to group across the landscape, and used to propose credible policy and program reforms.**

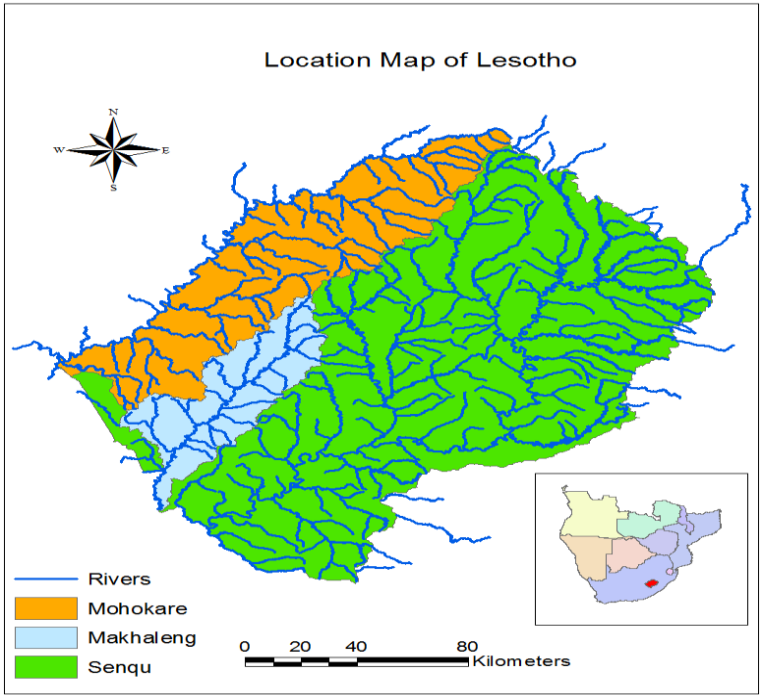
- ❑ **Working at the landscape level requires long-term engagement and adaptive management.**
- ❑ **Working at the landscape level and using a process of adaptive management entails long-term strategic engagement with communities, and a program-based rather than a project based approach.**
  - *There is potential to leverage synergy with the watershed programs in the MFRS including GEF (UNDP & FAO), Watershed program at Water Affairs (EU) on SRV landscape*
- ❑ **It must focus on participatory community-based learning by doing, and create an opportunity for multiple donors to collaborate in funding innovative and more strategic activities over a reasonably long period of time.**

From the Agro-ecological Landscape Approach to the River Basin Approach

Agro-ecological Zones



Major River Basins



Option 1

❑ ***Main Landscape Unit: Senqu River Basin***

- Lower Senqu River Basin
- Quthing River Catchment – Letša-la-Letsie
- Tsoelike River Catchment - Sehlabathebe
- Senqunyane River Catchment – Mohale Dam
- Malibamatšo River Catchment – Katse Dam

Option 2

❑ ***Makhaleng River Basin***

Option 3

❑ ***Mohokare River Basin***

- Phuthiatsana South
- Phuthiatsana North
- Hlotse River Catchment– Tšehlanyane Nature Reserve
- Hololo River Catchment – ‘Muela

- Khubelu River Catchment – Polihali Dam - Upper Senqu Basin – Letša-la-Senqu wetlands		

CONSENSUS AND RECOMMENDATION

- **Recognizing the centrality and critical role of ecosystems (Managed and Natural including waterscapes) in sustaining livelihoods in Lesotho, the proposal is that the *Senqu River Basin landscape* offers the SGP O6 program the best platform to integrate:**
  - biodiversity
  - international water issues
  - land degradation
  - Resilience
  - Carbon sequestration approaches.

2.1.5 Discussion and Selection of GEF SGP OP 6 Priority Landscape(s)

Following the elaborate presentation by the *Project Team Leader*, comments, questions and inputs were made:

- The recommendation that Community Councils be eligible for SGP funding is a good one need to take into consideration the fact that cattle-posts are under the administration of Principal Chiefs, therefore it is critical that this important element is incorporated into the process.
- Development of synergies is critical - The Global Water Partnership has wetlands protection as a number priority and thus they are a potential source of funding
- The proposed approach takes cognizance of the centrality of water in community landscape conservation approach. This resonates with government's priority of curbing unemployment and reducing poverty through water projects that support livelihoods and boost the country's economy.
- It was observed that there is a legislative gap for coordination and sustainability: The need for coordination; joint effort; minimization of conflicts and or duplication of efforts; strong and coherent leadership from the national level to coordinate development initiatives with clear and strong guidelines in place; consider establishment of a national planning board?
    - It was acknowledged that the issue of coordination is not specific to the SGP but a national concern requiring a national debate to facilitate synchronization of initiatives – ensuring that initiatives talk to each other.
- The landscape approach is a welcome strategy as it dictates synergy, networking and also enhances impact. M&E has been a shortcoming in most initiatives for a long time – the landscape approach will make it easier to measure impact.
- The waters sector has been going solo but it but now the realization is that water resources cannot be managed without taking land into consideration, therefore the approach now is land water resources management
- The water sector integrated catchment management (ICM) project supported by the EU is following the river basin approach which is fundamental as it links land and water. The ICM covers the whole country which is subdivided into more than 70 sub-catchments that have been ranked with the one requiring urgent attention awarded highest in priority.
- Makara's study on the state of land degradation in Lesotho was acknowledged as having informed the selection of the appropriate landscape
- Announcement was made that Tšehlanyane is going to be the first UNESCO Biosphere in Lesotho

- An observation was made that the Water Resources and Environment Acts have both missed the bus in that they both address cross-cutting issues hence the need for them to establish structures that transcend ministerial boundaries for them to be effective. It was reckoned that the two pieces of legislation may need to be revised in the very near future – particularly the institutional arrangement s for their implementation.
- Need for empowerment of community councils was emphasized and acknowledgement was made of the Deepening Decentralization Project in this regard.
- A point was made that the country is a nation under a tremendous amount of stress. It was therefore noted that conservation and sustainable use of the country's natural resources could be turned into an opportunity that can take the nation out of the stress.

In wrapping up the discussion, the *Project Team Leader, Dr. Marake*, thanked all for their comments and inputs and expressed his hope that he is looking forward to continued collaboration beyond the SGP Country Programme Strategy Development Process. He further indicated that inputs and technical breakthroughs from the EU supported ICM project and other initiatives will strengthen the landscape approach. He concluded by indicating that the University is willing to take up the challenge of looking into the coordination issue.

****All agreed that the Senqu River Basin be the Priority Landscape for GEF SGP intervention in OP 6****

2.1.6 The Next Steps and Closure

The following were presented as the next steps for the completion of the Country Programme Strategy development process:

- ❑ Selected Landscape/Seascape Baseline Assessment
  - Baseline analysis
  - Elaboration of SGP OP6 Strategic initiatives within the landscape/seascape context: *typologies of projects developed, indicators and targets, and results framework developed.*
  - Development of a menu/typology of strategic projects outside selected landscapes. *It was explained that up to 30% of the grant allocation to Lesotho will be used to support strategic projects outside the selected the selected landscape; projects that will enhance the envisaged Programme results.*
- ❑ Country Programme Strategy Finalization and approval

The *GEF SGP National Coordinator*, expressed her gratitude for the very rich discussions and invaluable inputs provided. She assured all that once finalized and approved, the Country

Programme Strategy will be availed to all as it is a public document. She informed participants that the plan is to complete and submit the CPS to Headquarters for endorsement by June 10, 2016.

The Chairperson thanked all for their participation and informed them that all presentations would be emailed to all as per contact details provided and declared the meeting closed.

ANNEX 1

List of Participants

Consensus Building Workshop: Priority Landscapes for SGP Intervention in OP6

18 May, 2016, UN Conference Hall

NAME	DESIGNATION	ORGANIZATION	EMAIL ADDRESS & TEL.
1. Lintle Khitsane	NSC	Lesotho College of Education	lintlek@gmail.com
2. Limomane Peshoane	NSC	UNDP	Limomane.peshoane@undp.org
3. Mamotebang Moeketsi	NSC	PELUM	dorcaspelum@gmail.com
4. Masenate Moremoholo	NSC (*Chairperson*)	Lesotho Council of Women	mrmoremoholo@gmail.com
5. Maseeiso Lekholoane	NSC	Ministry of Finance	mplekholoane@gmail.com
6. Molefi Mpheshea	Project Team	National University of Lesotho	mpheshea@gmail.com
7. Bobby Mcpherson	Project Team	National University of Lesotho	Mcpheresonbs33@yahoo.com
8. Makoala V. Marake	Project Team Leader	National University of Lesotho	mv.marake@gmail.com
9. Lisebo Motjotji	NSC	Department of Environment	Lisebomotjotji@yahoo.co.uk
10. Teboho Maolla	Project Officer	Serumula Development Association	tmaolla@yahoo.com
11. Matoka Moshoeshoe	Senior Conservation Officer	Ministry of Forestry, Soil Conservation and Range Management	stokismosh@gmail.com
12. Bore Motsamai	Member	Lesotho National Farmers Union	bore@ilesotho.com
13. Bontle Ntsoaole	Member	Environmental and Sustainability Education Network of Lesotho	Bontle34@yahoo.co.uk
14. Motsau Khuele	CEO	Lesotho National Farmers Union	khuelemotsau@yahoo.com

15. Lenka Thamae	Programmes	Transformation Resources Centre	lhwp@trc.org.ls
16. Aletta Koetlisi	Project Manager	Catholic Relief Services	Aletta.koetlisi@crs.org
17. Phaello Leketa	Hydrologist	Department of Water Affairs	rmphae@gmail.com
18. Mahlalele Tlali	Senior Hydrologist	Department of Water Affairs	tlalimahlalele@yahoo.com
19. Koena Marabe	Programme Manager	EU Delegation	Koena.marabe@eeas.europa.eu
20. Khotso Lepheana	Food Security Coordinator	Send a Cow Lesotho	Khotso.lepheana@sendacow.org
21. Mofihli Phaqane	Rural Project Coordinator	Local Government	mofihliphaqane@gmail.com
22. Liketso Ntho	AEP	Department of Energy	Liketso-ntho@yahoo.com
23. Puseletso Thejane	Tourism Officer	Department of Tourism	pthejane@yahoo.com 63477184
24. Seabata Motsamai	Executive Director	Lesotho Council of NGOs	Seabata.motsamai@lcn.org.ls
25. Mosiuoa Bereng	Senior Environment Officer	Department of Environment	wmbereng@yahoo.com
26. Mamokete Molapo	Project Team	National University of Lesotho	Mamokete.molapo@gmail.com
27. Ntahane Takalimane	Project Team	National University of Lesotho	stakalimane@nul.ls
28. Sjaak DEBOER	Programme Manager	EU Delegation	Jacobus.deboer@eeas.europa.eu
29. Shammy Puri	EU TA KM	EU TA	ShammyPuri@aol.com
30. Malintle Kheleli	Chairperson	GEM/GEF CSO Network	kmalintle@yahoo.com
31. Thabo Qhesi	NSC	Private Sector Foundation of Lesotho	Ezekial.qhesi@gmail.com
32. Tseliso Tsoeu	Programme Associate	SGP – Secretariat	tseliso.tsoeu@undp.org
33. Nthabiseng Majara	National Coordinator	SGP - Secretariat	nthabiseng.majara@undp.org
34. Christy Ahenkora	Deputy Resident Representative	UNDP CO - Lesotho	Christy.ahenkora@undp.org

ANNEX 2

Consensus Building Workshop
GEF SGP OP 6 Priority Landscape(s)
18 May 2016, UN Conference Hall

08:00 – 10:00 *NSC Meeting – closed session*

10:00 – 10:15 **Opening Session**

Remarks by the GEF SGP NSC Chairperson

Remarks by the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative

Opening Remarks by the National GEF Focal Point – PS MTEC

10:15 – 10:45 **Tea/Coffee**

10:45 – 10:50 **Objectives of the Workshop**

10:50 – 11:05 **The GEF SGP Approach in OP 6**

11:05 – 11:30 **GEF SGP OP 6 Priority Landscape(s) - Approach**

11:30 – 12:50 **Discussion and Selection of GEF SGP OP 6 Priority Landscape(s)**

12:50 – 13:00 **Next Steps and Closure**

13:00 **Refreshments**

4.0 Guiding Questions for Consultative Discussions

4.1 Government and /or Non-Governmental Organizations

Interview schedule:

a) Request strategic documents: Policy, plans, Reports
b) Which Government strategic plans and /or policies are guiding the strategic vision and /operations or mandate of your ministry /department/organization?
c) Please tell us about your organizational strategic development priorities and how they are aligned with government strategic plans /policies stated above.
d) Has the ministry /department/organization been previously or currently engaged /involved in the GEF-SGP programs i.e. GEF-SGP OP5 or its predecessor programs?
e) If Yes in (c) above: Please explain how and share information and experiences; Please probe how and where improvements could be made.
f) In what ways can the strategic areas of the SGP relevant to and /or complementing strategic mandate /priorities of the ministry /department?
g) In what ways can the strategic initiatives of SGP OP6 relevant to and /complementing the strategic mandate /priorities of the ministry /department?
h) Which type of projects can SGP support to create synergy with the mandate of the ministry /department?
i) Please share any suggestions on how the GEF-SGP program can be improved.

4.3 District Council Secretaries and Chairpersons

a) Request strategic documents: Policy, plans, Reports
b) Which priorities are guiding the strategic vision and /operations of the District Community Council?
c) What are the development and livelihood challenges facing the communities in your district?

i) Natural ecosystems: Rangelands, Forests (exotic or indigenous)
ii) Managed ecosystems: Agricultural fields, homestead gardens
iii) Villages: Energy needs: Cooking, house warming and lighting

d) What kind of projects and /or programs can be introduced to respond to these development /livelihood challenges?

i) Natural ecosystems: Rangelands, Forests (exotic or indigenous)
ii) Managed ecosystems: Agricultural fields, homestead gardens
iii) Villages: Energy needs: Cooking, house warming and lighting

ii) Are you aware of any GEF SGP funded projects in your district?
iii) If yes to (e) above, which communities or CBOs /Associations are beneficiaries?

iv) Which government and /or non-government funded development initiatives have been planned and /or implemented in your district over the last 5 years?
v) Which components of the development initiatives should in your opinion be upscaled? Why?

4.4 Local Authorities: Chiefs and Local Community Councils

a) Request strategic documents: Policy, plans, Reports
b) Which priorities are guiding the strategic vision and /operations of your Community Council?
c) What are the development and livelihood challenges facing communities in your electoral division?

i) Natural ecosystems: Rangelands, Forests (exotic or indigenous)
ii) Managed ecosystems: Agricultural fields, homestead gardens
iii) Villages: Energy needs: Cooking, house warming and lighting

d) What kind of projects and /or programs can be introduced to respond to these development /livelihood challenges?

i) Natural ecosystems: Rangelands, Forests (exotic or indigenous)
ii) Managed ecosystems: Agricultural fields, homestead gardens
iv) Villages: Energy needs: Cooking, house warming and lighting

e) Are you aware of any GEF SGP funded projects in your electoral division?
f) If yes to (e) above, which communities or CBOs /Associations are beneficiaries?
g) Which government and /or non-government funded development initiatives have been planned and /or implemented in your district over the last 5 years?
h) Which components of the development initiatives should in your opinion be upscaled? Why?
i) What types of projects should in your opinion be introduced for the communities in your electoral division?

4.5 Community households

Use literature review of key baseline studies which had extensive components of household surveys

4.6 Community based Organizations

a) What is the name of your association?
b) When was the association established?
c) What are the objective (s) of your association?
d) How many members does your association have?

e) Has your membership increased or decreased over the last 5 years? Why?
f) What are the specific development or livelihood challenges are you as an association trying to respond to?
g) Please share concrete activities you have planned or implemented pursuant to these challenges.
h) If you have made progress, please share with us your success story?
i) If you have not been able to make progress, what were the stumbling blocks? How did you attempt to solve the barriers?
j) If you had no financial constraints, what projects or programs would you want to implement?

4.7 List of Potential CBOs for Consultation

	Community Based Organizations	Location
1	Matelile Tajane Community Development Centre	Matelile Ha Seeiso
2	Patriot Vision in Action	Liqoabing Rothe
3	Liphamola Private Nurseries Cooperatives Society	Mokhotlong Reserve
4	Qholaqhoe Herbal Centre Association	Qholaqhoe
5	Anti-Drug Abuse Association of Lesotho	Mount Moorosi
6	Rural Self-Help Development Association	Ha Notsi – Tebang
7	GROW -	Molikaliko and Ha Makhabane
8	Serumula Development Association	Tšenekeng - Semonkong
9	Young Women Christian Association	Makhalaneng Ha Tenezulu
10	Lesotho Durham Link	Maqalika Maseru and Mathebe
11	Anti Drug Abuse Association of Lesotho	Mount Moorosi
12	Sebetsang ka Thata Balisana Association	Ha Khohlooa - Berea
13	Utloang Balisana Association	Lithabaneng Ha Kepi - Berea
14	Maseru Aloe Multi-purpose Cooperative Union	Ha Abia Maseru
15	Geography and Environmental Movement: ***Five Schools in Maseru – Lesotho High School, Life, St, Josephs, Hoohlo Primary School, Sefika High School***	
16	Katleho 'Moho Association	
17	Temaneng Development Community Association	Temaneng Maseru
18	Ha Baroana Rock Art Centre	Ha Mpiti – Machache/Thaba Bosiu
19	The Bana Project	Mazenod Ha ‘Masana
21	Bonds Community Recreation Association	Five villages in the Ha Thetsane Area
22	Maphotong Agric Development Association	Maphotong Roma
23	Snake Park and Tourist Information Centre	Qacha’s Nek Town
24	Technologies for Economic Development	Seforong, Patlong and Malealea

	Community Based Organizations	Location
27	Liphamola Horticultural Farmers Association	Janteu, Mapeleng, Tsepong in Mokhotlong
28	Mokema Homestead Ecotourism Association	Korokoro/Mokema
29	Taseseqe	Likhetlane - Leribe
30	Development for Peace Education	Letseng-La-Letsie -Quthing
31	Solar Turbine Group Lesotho	
32	Tsehlanyane Community Conservation Forum	
33	Sekepe Support Group and Home Based Care	Mazenod Ha Sekepe
34	Technologies for Economic Development	
35	Royal Archives and Museum	
36	Mokhotlong District Wool and Mohair Growers Association	
37	Phelisanong Orphans, Disabled, HIV/AIDS and Vulnerable Childrens's Project	
38	Katleho 'Moho Association	
39	Boreipala Hoai-Li-Thabile Grazing Association	Boreipala Semonkong
40	Environmental and Sustainability Education Network of Lesotho	Tlokoeng – Botha Bothe
41	Thaba-Putsoa Range Development Organization	Makhaleng Ha Seeiso
42	Phela Health and Development Communications	
43	Good Shepherd Centre for Teenage Mothers	Ha Makujoe - Berea
44	Send A Cow Lesotho	Setleketseng Maseru
45	Majantja Temong Farmers Association	Phamong Mohale's Hoek
46	Akofang Makaota Dairy Farmers Association	Mafeteng