



# LESOTHO-BOTSWANA WATER TRANSFER PROJECT

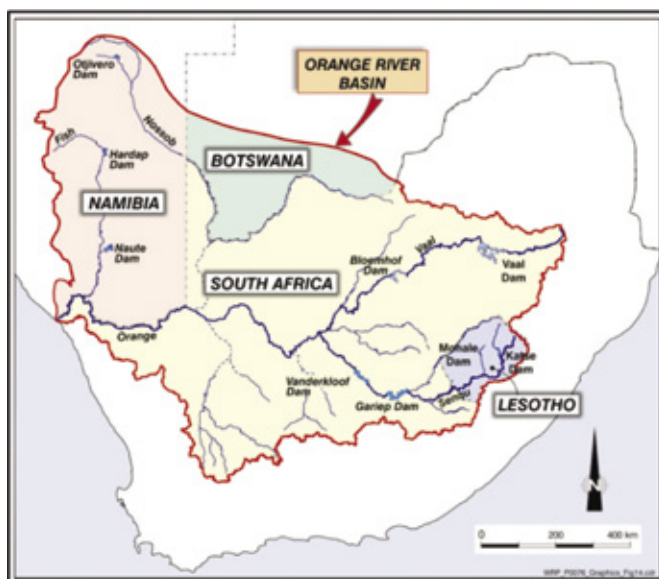
## PROJECT BRIEF

*The ground-breaking Lesotho Botswana Water Transfer initiative is a transboundary multi-purpose water infrastructure project, set to be the first of its kind on the African continent.*



## BACKGROUND

The Orange-Senqu River Basin is one of the largest river basins south of the Zambezi River with a catchment area of approximately one million km<sup>2</sup>. It encompasses all of Lesotho, a significant portion of South Africa, Botswana and Namibia. The Orange-Senqu River originates in the Lesotho Highlands and flows in a westerly direction for approximately 2 200 km to the west coast of South Africa and Namibia, where the river discharges into the Atlantic Ocean. The Basin is of major economic importance to South Africa contributing 26% to South Africa's GDP. It also supplies water through a trans-basin transfer scheme to most of the Gauteng province, which generates 33.9% of the national GDP. In Lesotho, all economic activities are conducted within the Basin as the entire country is part of the Basin. The Basin contributes to the GDP of Botswana and Namibia, where mining and agriculture are the main areas of water usage. Over the past decade ORASECOM, with the support of key development partners, has been assessing the water resources management conditions in the Basin.





# IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT

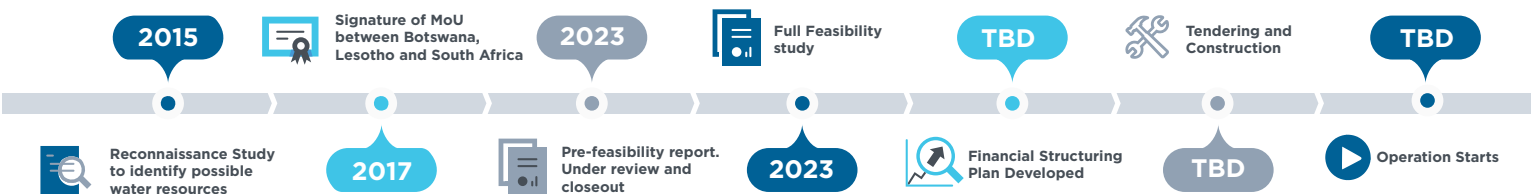
ORASECOM Secretariat is the implementing Agent and coordinating authority for the Project and the Project Management Office based in Maseru, Lesotho, coordinates and implements the various project studies. The Joint Study Management Committee (JSMC) coordinates the undertaking of the project studies and also provides progress on the implementation of the

L-BWT to the Commission and the State Parties. The JSMC further oversees the development of agreements for the implementation of the outcomes from the studies, as well as appointments of Consultants and Experts, as may be required from one phase of the Project, to the next.

## PROJECT TIMELINE

Since the signing of the 2017 Memorandum of Agreement, the project has undergone various gradual steps leading up to the envisaged operational status. In August 2018, technical consultants were appointed to undertake: (i) the pre-feasibility study of the proposed dam and water conveyance system options/routes; and (ii) a technical feasibility study for a dam option to be selected during the pre-feasibility study, on the Makhaleng River, in Lesotho. The Prefeasibility studies

were concluded in December 2022 except for the institutional and financing options analysis, planned to be concluded in the third quarter of 2023. The feasibility study for the dam commenced in January 2023 and is expected to be complete by December 2023. The feasibility studies for the water conveyance system are awaiting for additional funding to commence early in 2024.



# BENEFICIARIES AND IMPACT

The long-term impact of the project will be improved climate-resilient socio-economic development and poverty eradication in the basin, in alignment with the African Union initiative of building continental partnership in developing cost-effective and sustainable regional infrastructure through the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). The development of the L-BWT will result in an improved standard of living, inclusive growth, enhanced preparedness and adaptation to deal with vulnerability to climate change impact thus ensuring long-term water security in the basin while at the same time maintaining downstream flows for the benefit of downstream users and the ecosystems.

- Water supply to Botswana, as well as Lesotho and South African municipalities along the route.
- Hydropower generation in Lesotho to improve population access to electricity and to reduce dependency on imported energy supply.
- Climate resilience enhancement from water shortages and droughts for communities in Botswana, Lesotho, and South Africa, which have negatively impacted agriculture sector outputs, factor remuneration and general livelihoods.

- Creation of long-term employment opportunities not only during the project development and construction, but also at its operational stage.

The Lesotho Botswana Water Transfer Project is the first recipient of an excellence award in the water infrastructure development category of PIDA PAP 2 for high standards in the early stage of project preparation, in recognition of Excellence in Regional Infrastructure Project Preparation and achievement of the Service Delivery Mechanism (SDM).



# PROJECT PARTNERS AND SUPPORT

The three State Parties are the project sponsors and are a constituent party of the Council of Commissioners of ORASECOM. The countries are represented through:

- Ministry of Lands Management, Water and Sanitation Services of the Republic of Botswana
- Ministry of Natural Resources of the Kingdom of Lesotho
- Ministry of Water and Sanitation of the Republic of South Africa

The project is a Multipurpose Project for the Orange-Senqu River Basin implemented as part of the Climate Resilient Water Resources Investment Plan supported through Financing Agreements with NEPAD-IPPF and the African Water Facility (AWF). The Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development Facility (CRIDF), Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and Global Water Partnership - Southern Africa (GWP SA) made in-kind cash contribution towards stakeholders' consultations, financial, legal and institutional studies.

# CONTACT DETAILS

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 Orange-Senqu River Commission  [@orasecom\\_news](https://twitter.com/orasecom_news)

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