



LESOTHO-BOTSWANA WATER TRANSFER PROJECT

Newsletter

July 2024



The Lesotho – Botswana Water Transfer Project newsletter aims to keep its diverse stakeholders informed of the latest updates and developments on the project.

Project Update | Progress on Feasibility Studies

The pre-feasibility studies for the Lesotho – Botswana Water Transfer have been successfully completed and the final reports were approved by the Joint Study Management Committee on January 30, 2024.

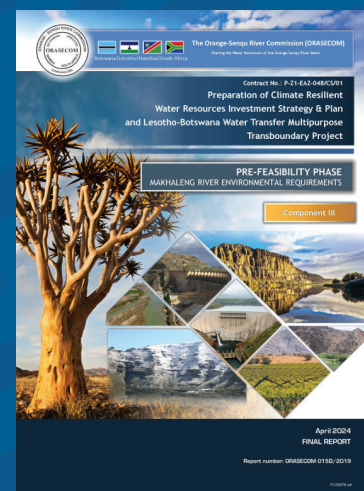
The dam's feasibility studies are underway and expected to be completed by September 2024. In parallel, the Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM) is in the process of procuring services to undertake the outstanding feasibility studies. These are:

The Feasibility Study on the Conveyance System: This study will evaluate the technical and economic viability of the water transfer infrastructure.

The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA): A comprehensive assessments for both the dam and the conveyance system to ensure sustainable development and to minimize adverse effects on the environment and local communities.

The Financial, Legal, and Institutional Arrangement Study: This will provide a robust framework for financing, legal considerations and institutional governance for the project.

The conclusion of the feasibility studies, anticipated for December 2026, will allow the Lesotho - Botswana Water Transfer Project to move to the project decision-making and structuring phases.



Active Stakeholder Engagement and Community Outreach Efforts



The former ORASECOM Executive Secretary, Mr. Lenka Thamae and Project Coordinator, Mr. Thabo Hloele with members of the Lesotho Council of NGOs at a project briefing meeting on December 18, 2023.

mental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) on the dam and water conveyance system, the PMO continues to engage with community councils, traditional leaders, and local communities in the planned project area, in Lesotho. Engagements along the conveyance system route footprint area are anticipated to commence within the first half of 2025.

The Project Management Office (PMO) remains committed to active stakeholder engagement and transparent communication. In August 2023, the project was showcased during the Botswana Annual International Consumer Fair and featured on Botswana's national television. In December 2023, the PMO conducted project briefing sessions with the Lesotho Council of NGOs, followed by presentations to the Lesotho Water Section and various media agencies at the beginning of 2024.

In preparation for the upcoming water conveyance system technical feasibility study and the Environ-



Project briefing session with councilors at Lehlakaneng Community Council in the Mafeteng District.

Communities In Lesotho Highly Anticipate The Project

Communities around the planned project area are eagerly anticipating the Lesotho-Botswana Water Transfer Project, viewing it as a significant opportunity for local development and improved livelihoods. The project promises to bring much-needed infrastructure, employment opportunities and enhanced water security to the Orange-Senqu River Basin. Residents are hopeful that the initiative will not only boost the local economy but also provide long-term benefits such as improved access to clean water, electricity and improved socio-economic conditions. The positive anticipation is reflected in the active participation and support from community members during stakeholder meetings and consultations.

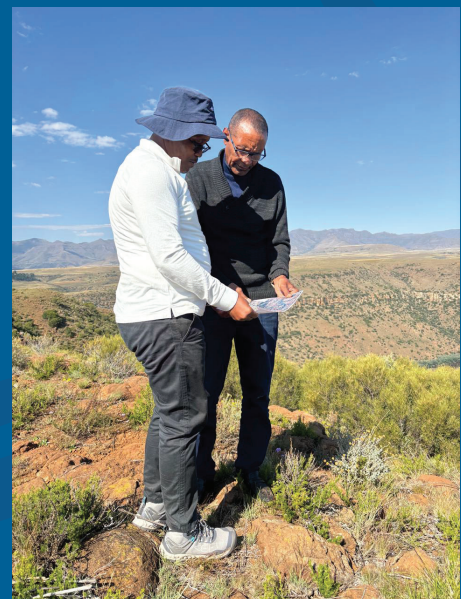
"I urge all of you to fully participate in the preparation of this project. When you are called to attend gatherings, please come. That way we, as a community, can proudly say we have ownership of this great initiative." – said Principal Chief of Tajane, Honorable

Thato 'Mako Mohale at a community gathering "Pitso" in Ribaneng, Mafeteng. Similar sentiments were shared by the Principal Chief for Likhoele, Honourable Lerotholi Seeiso,

the Principal Chief for Matelile Honourable Moholobela Seeiso Moholobela and the Principal Chief for Ha Ramabanta Honourable Bereng Griffiths Api, in their respective areas.

ORASECOM Executive Secretary's Inaugural Visit to Lesotho

The new ORASECOM Executive Secretary, Mr. Comfort Molosiwa, paid an inaugural visit to Lesotho shortly after beginning his duties as ORASECOM's Chief Accounting Officer and head of the Secretariat. During his visit, guided by the Project Management Office in Maseru, the Executive Secretary explored the proposed dam site on the Makhale River. He also met with the Lesotho delegation from the Ministry of Natural Resources. Mr. Molosiwa expressed his gratitude for the delegation's steadfast engagement in ORASECOM activities and emphasized the importance of continued commitment from the commissioners. He highlighted the need to expedite the completion of the feasibility studies for the Lesotho-Botswana Water Transfer Project. Mr. Molosiwa also paid a courtesy call to Ms Silvia Sala Giner, the Programme Manager for Water, Energy and Climate Change, in the office of the delegation of the European Union to the Kingdom of Lesotho.



Project Coordinator, Mr. Thabo Hloele shows the Executive Secretary, Mr. Comfort Molosiwa the project area under study

Stay Informed

Stay tuned for our next newsletter, where we will keep you updated on the latest developments and engagements.

For more information about the project, please contact Miss Elita Banda, Communication and Knowledge Management Specialist, at elita.banda@orasecom.org or +266 62991288.

