

# **Benefit Sharing in the Senqu River Basin**

**Ministry of Water Lesotho  
Department of Water Affairs  
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by Mahlalele Eunice Tlali**

# Benefit Sharing in the Senqu River Basin

*“In the context of trans-boundary watercourses, benefit sharing may be defined as the process where riparians cooperate in optimising and equitably dividing the goods, products and services connected directly or indirectly to the watercourse, or arising from the use of its waters.” Phillips and Woodhouse 2009*



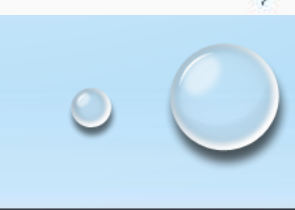
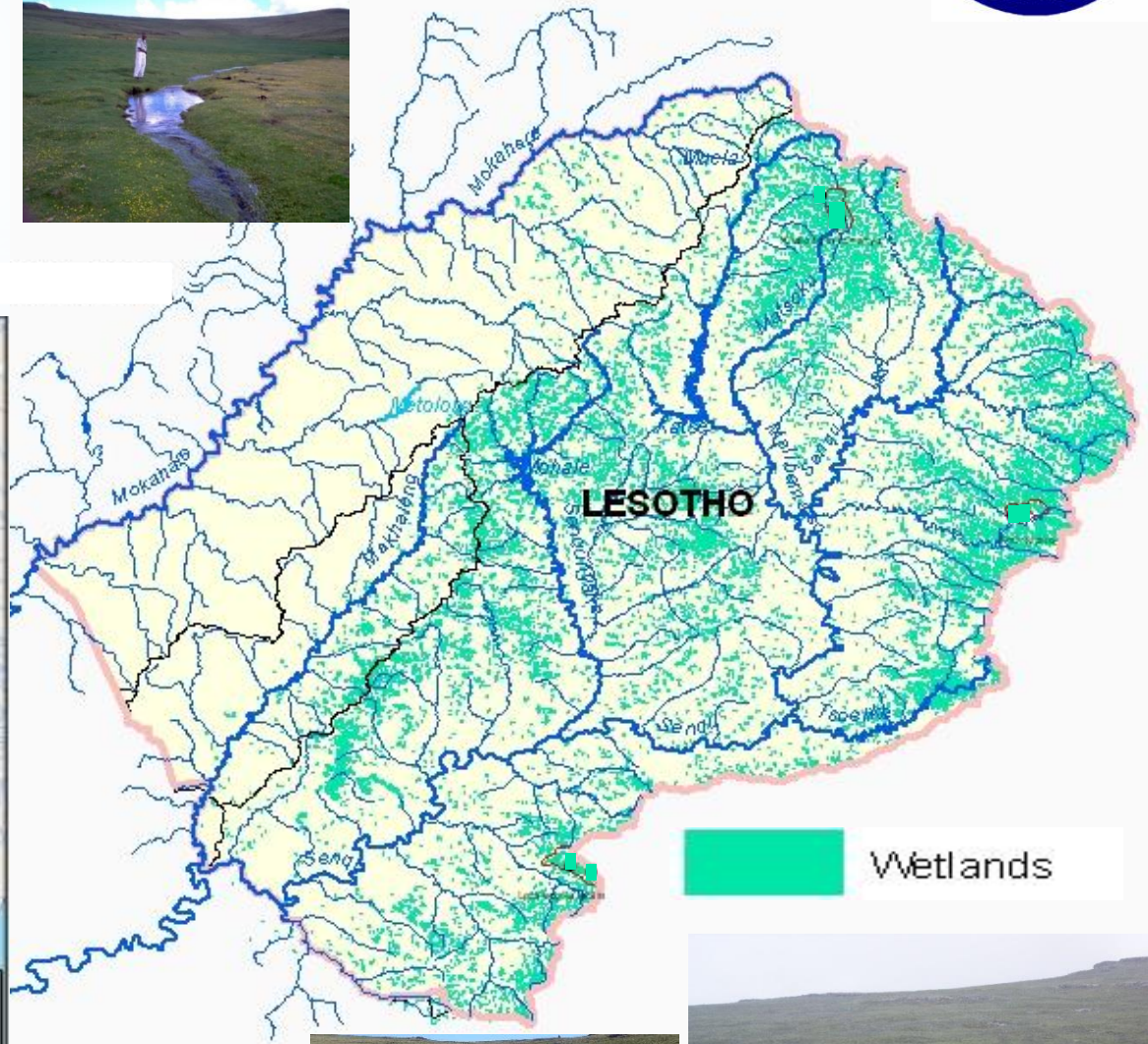
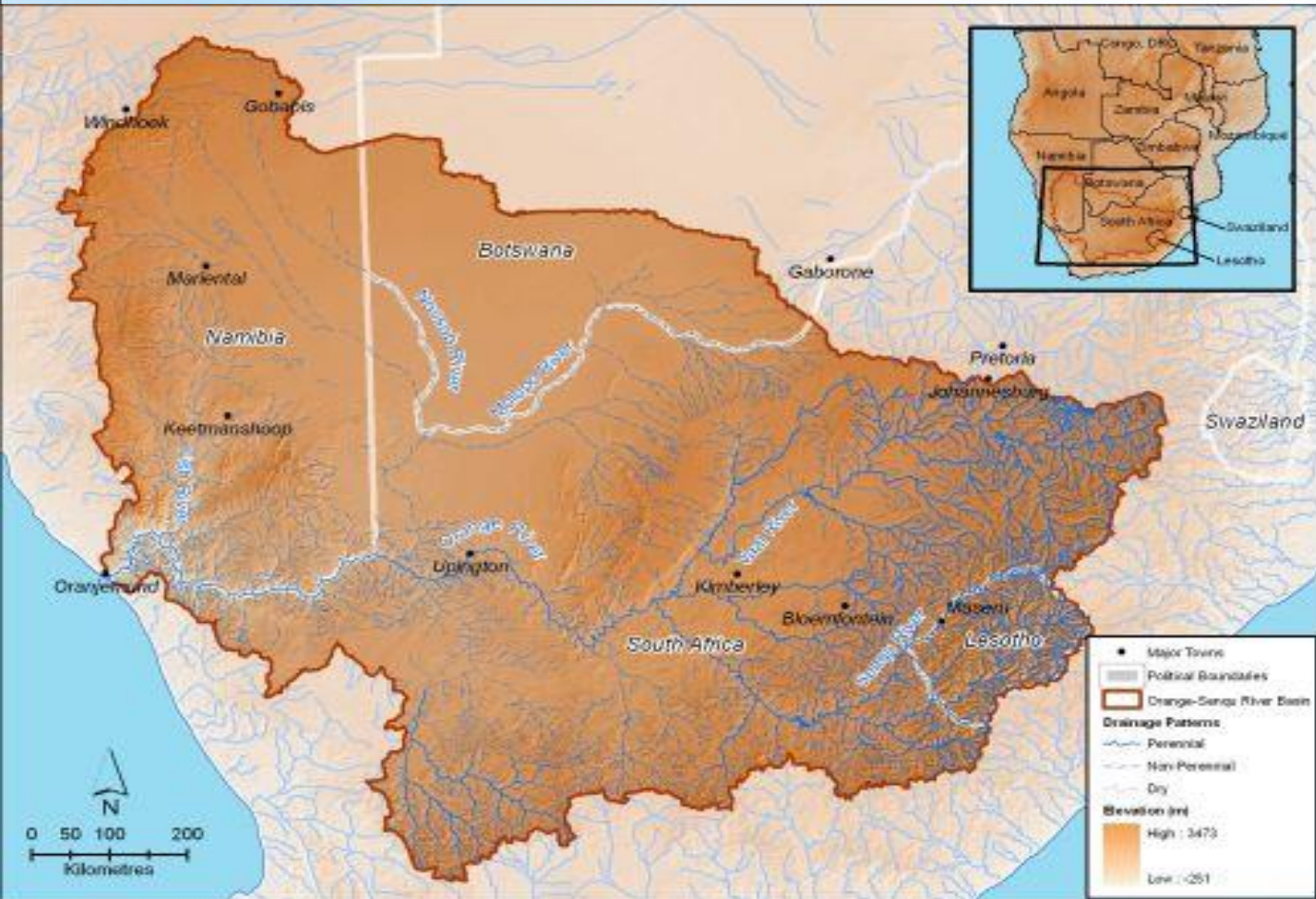


# Overview of Water Resources



Lesotho within SADC Region & Orange-Senqu River Basin

- Occupies less than 4% of Orange-Senqu river basin area
- But generates over 44% basin runoff



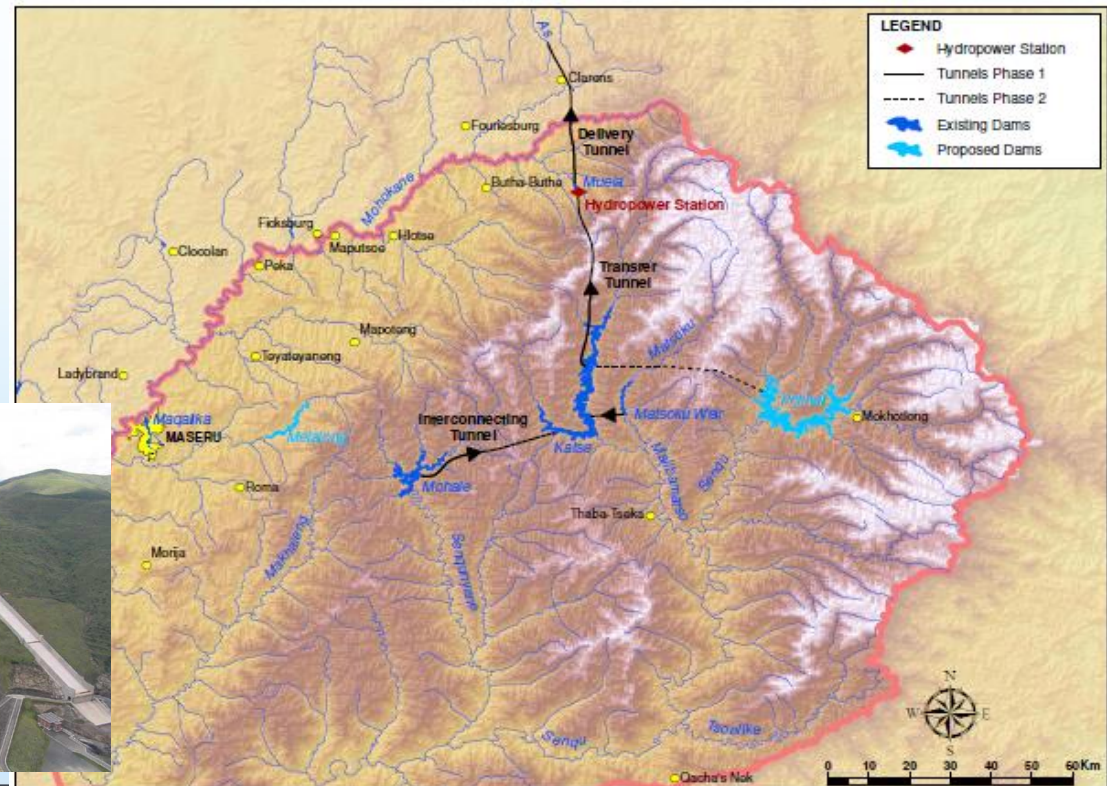




# Water Resources Development

## • Lesotho Highlands Water Project

- High quality raw water transfers from Lesotho Highlands to South Africa
- Phase 1 complete: Katse & Mphahlele dams & associated infrastructure
- Phase 2 commenced: Polihali dam & associated infrastructure
- A global demonstration of bilateral cooperation on water





# Opportunities

- **Water resources in Lesotho underdeveloped**
  - Presenting opportunities for research, further development & growth
- **Water professionals in Lesotho highly scarce**
  - Presenting opportunities for incoming water professionals, water entrepreneurs & water related/dependent industry
- **Lesotho is upstream all countries sharing the Orange-Senqu river basin**
  - Strategically placing Lesotho for collaboration with basin states on conservation and rehabilitation of wetlands, with potential for improving livelihoods of Basotho who depend on wetlands resources



# Overview of Water Resources

## WATER RESOURCES ON SELECTED STATIONS

LOCATION	SENQU		MOHOKARE		MAKHALENG	
	Area (Km <sup>2</sup> )	Flow (M <sup>3</sup> /s)	Area (Km <sup>2</sup> )	Flow (M <sup>3</sup> /s)	Area (Km <sup>2</sup> )	Flow (M <sup>3</sup> /s)
Lesotho	19,875	106.00	6,890	26.49	2,911	16.71
RSA+ LESOTHO	24,550	128.00	13,420	35.40	2,926	16.71

## WATER RESOURCES

	MOHOKARE	MAKHALENG	SENQU	TOTALS
MAR (M <sup>3</sup> /s) Surface water	35.4	16.71	106.0	<b>158.11</b>
MAR (M <sup>3</sup> /s) Groundwater	3.07	1.24	6.51	<b>10.82</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>168.93</b>
SEDIMENT TON/YR	8,869,000	14,673	9,090,000	17,973,673



# Main Transboundary Opportunities

- Willingness of Member States to manage river basins together
- Plans
- **Studies** (Joint survey, Water quality standards, Protection of the Orange-Senqu Water Sources, IWRM in communities, etc)
- Legal framework
- ORASECOM agreement came under the revised protocol and it is already entrenched within the sector



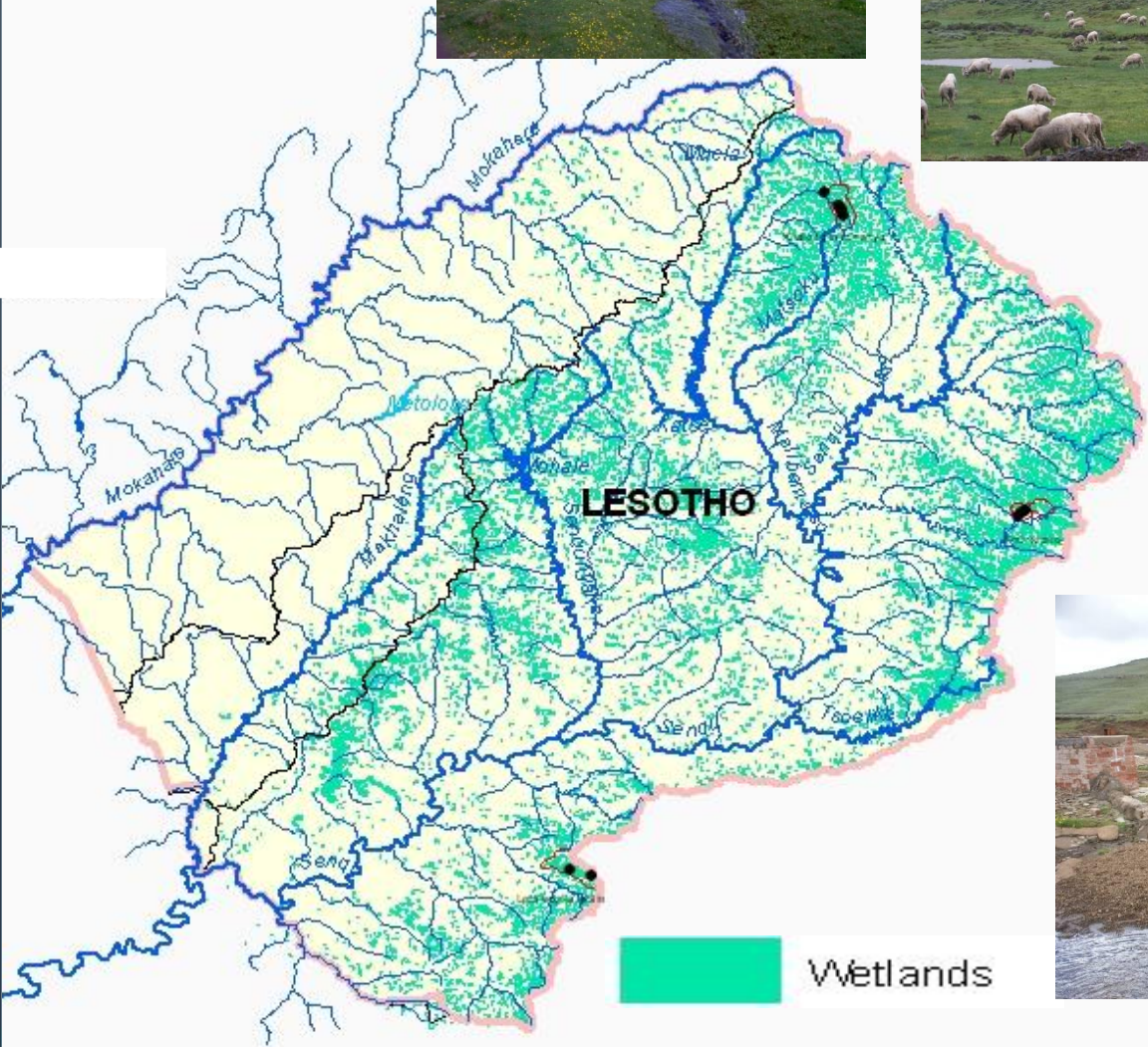
# Main Transboundary Challenges

- Degraded water quality, catchments, wetlands and biodiversity.
- Water scarcity
- Benefit sharing/equity has not been studied in depth. There are no tangible things that can be used to be put into practice. E.g. protection of wetlands/rangelands- there are no alternative options given to people for livelihoods as we remove them from the rangelands.
- Member States are at different levels economically. E.g. South Africa and Lesotho. SA has muscle therefore it is difficult to determine equity and benefit sharing





# Wetlands conservation, rehabilitation & monitoring







# Existing Applicable Legal Framework

- Revised SADC Protocol
- ORASECOM Protocol
- Local policies have sections on transboundary issues (Water and Sanitation Policy 2007: Policy statement 4; Transboundary Water Resources)
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# **Main Challenges/lessons learnt in Developing/Implementing the Existing Legal Framework**

- Willingness of Member States to manage river basins together as per the agreement
- Respective parliaments do not understand the implications of the legal framework although ratified
- Member states do not plan together. They do not trust each other



Kea leboha  
Thank you