

# **WATER, ENERGY, FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY INITIATIVE**

## **LESOTHO WATER PARTNERSHIP**

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# Water is Life

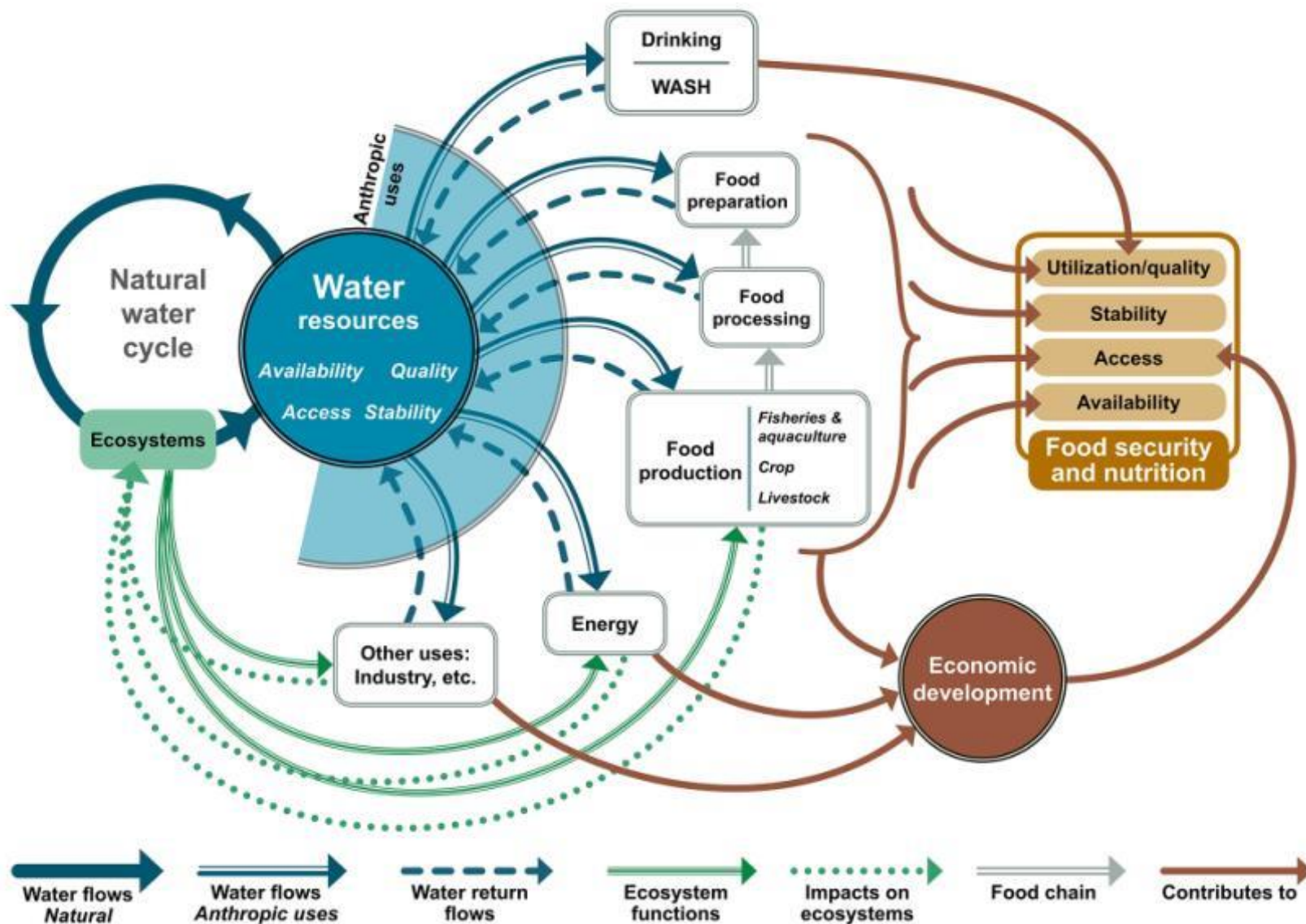


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# Background

- Water is key to food security.
- Crops and livestock need water to grow. Agriculture requires large quantities of water for irrigation and of good quality for various production processes.
- Lesotho depends on crops and livestock thus on agricultural products.
- Managing water scarcities in agriculture and food systems is very crucial.

# Water for Food Security and Nutrition



## Background (contd)

- While feeding the world and producing a diverse range of non-food crops such as cotton, rubber and industrial oils in an increasingly productive way, agriculture also confirmed its position as the biggest user of water on the globe.
- Irrigation now claims close to 70 percent of all freshwater appropriated for human use. ([http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/food\\_security.shtml](http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/food_security.shtml))

# **Lesotho Water Act 2008**

- Legal instrument aimed to provide for the management, protection, conservation development and sustainable utilisation of water resources and amongst others gives the Minister to regulate water uses.
- Use of water for agricultural purposes i.e. irrigation would be informed by quantity and quality of water provided by the sector including the water use permit for such works.

# Lesotho Water and Sanitation Policy 2007

- Proper management of country's water resources and its sustainable utilisation.
- Coordination and coherence in the management and development of water and other related natural resources, in order to maximise the resultant socio-economic benefits without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems.
- To synergise water and food security through integrated water resource management (IWRM).

# **Lesotho Long Term Water and Sanitation Strategy**

- Operationalises the Lesotho Water and Sanitation Policy and deals with the “how part” and investment costs thereto.
- Food Security is subject to proper management of the catchment. Arresting erosion and land degradation will assist in the productive agriculture. This is well articulated in the Strategy with involvement of multi stakeholders including Agriculture sector



# **Revised Protocol on shared water courses**

- Regional instrument for managing the shared river basins for equitable use and sharing of benefits for the shared rivers.
- Addresses the advancement of the SADC agenda of regional integration and poverty reduction. Food security is core to poverty reduction.

# **Orange-Senqu River Commission Agreement (ORASECOM)**

- Focus at the basin level or Senqu river basin. The Agreement taps from the Revised Protocol above but customise it to the four member states sharing the Senqu-Orange river.
- Addresses the advancement of the SADC agenda of regional integration and poverty reduction. Food security is core to poverty reduction, with focus on member states of ORASECOM (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa)

# **Lesotho Environmental Act 2008**

- An Act to make the provision for protection and management of the environment and conservation and sustainable utilisation of natural resources of Lesotho and for connected purposes.
- The protection of environment is complementary to food security as the healthy or near pristine environment provides conducive conditions for crop production

# Lesotho lowlands Water Supply

# Lesotho Food Security Policy 2005

- To guide on framework of food security including the institutional structures to address food security
- An overall policy which includes the sector stakeholders towards common destiny of food security

# **Lesotho Food and Nutrition Policy and Strategies (draft) 2016**

- Food and Nutrition Security are essential for meeting basic human needs.
- Water deficiency affects food and nutrition security.

# **HIV and AIDS Policy (2006)**

## **Strategic Plan 2011/12 – 2015/16**

- Integrate nutrition support
- Support and empowering mechanisms for OVCs
- Increase coverage and quality of treatment
- Improve efficiency and sustainability of mitigation programmes

# Water-Energy-Food Nexus:

- The country, through the Ministry of Water, is exploring ways and means that can be used to make water a catalyst in changing and improving the livelihoods of Basotho. The Ministry has put forward a concept of developing multipurpose dams to serve different uses. The multipurpose dams being planned are those with a potential to among other things be used for hydropower generation and irrigation for food security. Proposals have been developed for this ambitious plan and are at different levels of discussion within the Ministry and the sector.



# Water-Food Nexus:

- Based on the water resources situation provided by the state of water resources report, the sector is currently engaging the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) with a view of discussing the available opportunities in the use of water for agricultural production, mainly focusing on water for irrigation as a means of curbing food insecurity in the country.

# PROPOSAL

- We need to conserve water for future generations this is priority one as **catchment management** and its **implementation**.
- We need to construct **multipurpose dams** for agriculture and construct water highways and storage towers for maximum usage.

# RATIONALE

- Promote sustainable management and conservation of ecosystems for the continued availability of water and reliability of water for Food security and Nutrition
- Lesotho Rivers – Ecological Sensitive High Alpine Wetlands
- Survival threatened by unsustainable grazing of livestock, road construction and burning of rangelands.

# RATIONALE

- DWA- MCA-L “Wetlands Conservation Pilot Project 2010 – 2014” This multi –sector initiative includes Range, Environment, Local Government, CBO’s and Chiefs.
- This initiative though is a pilot has realised the successes by appreciation by resource users and can be piloted in other places

# FUND RAISING OPTIONS

# CHALLENGES TO BE OVERCOME

- Land degradation
- Lack of Nutrition policy though Food Security policy is present.
- Water is critical in our lives and water harvesting needs promotion.
- The Food Security Policy should be updated to meet the current needs and climate changes

# CHALLENGES TO BE OVERCOME

- Over 534,000 people are at risk of food insecurity up to June 2016 (one in every four people in Lesotho) – the number is likely to go up beyond 725,000 people after June 2016.



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# CHALLENGES TO BE OVERCOME

- Over 377,000 people require immediate food or cash assistance to enable them to access food from the market as well as livelihood support to resuscitate own food production (revised figures will be available after June 2016 once crop forecast is available).





# CHALLENGES TO BE OVERCOME

- Rangeland and water availability for livestock is poor and livestock conditions have deteriorated with reported drought-related deaths in Senqu Valley and Lowlands mainly.

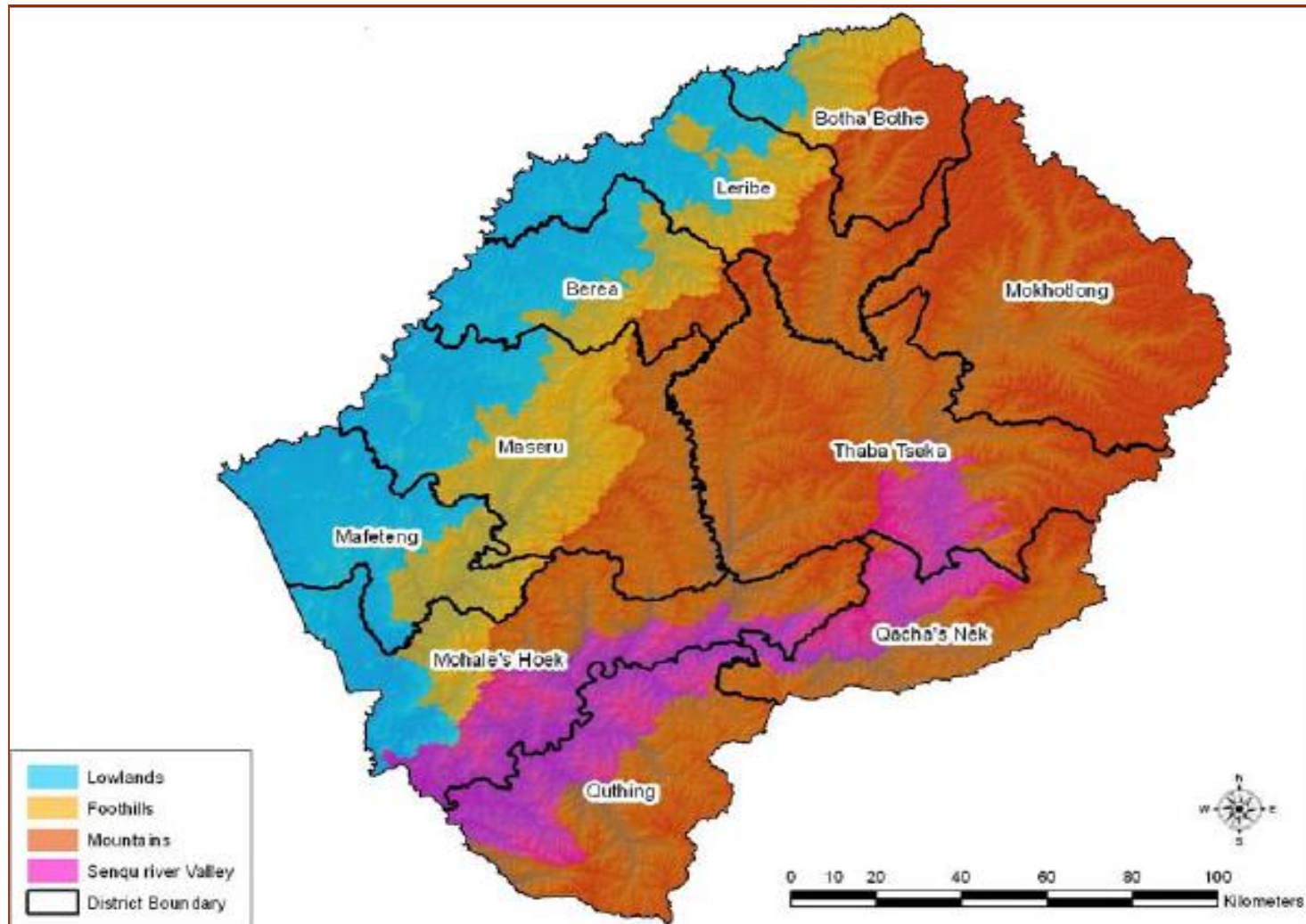


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# Lesotho Livelihood zones



# Agro-ecological zones of Lesotho



# CHALLENGES TO BE OVERCOME

- FAO needs USD 7 million to assist drought-affected people through coordinated support to agriculture and livestock production, nutrition, social protection and resilience-building interventions. Of this, USD 1.1 million has already been pledged by ECHO.



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# END

- Thank you
- Merci
- Obrigardo
- Asante sana
- Ameseginalew
- Kea leboha