Lesotho

Ministry of Environment and Forestry



NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN III

2025 – 2030

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

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MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

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Production of this National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) III is a culmination of efforts of several stakeholders who worked under the guidance of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, (Department of Environment) and the NBSAP National Steering Committee consisting of the following State and non-State Actors in the Biodiversity Sector:

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'MAPHAKAMILE XINGWANA (MRS)

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY - MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY

FOREWORD

In the face of a planetary crisis marked by the accelerating loss of biodiversity, the Kingdom of Lesotho stands at a crucial moment. Our majestic mountains, unique grasslands, vital wetlands, and the thriving ecosystem are not only our national heritage; they are the very foundation of our people's well-being, resilience, and sustainable development. The degradation of these natural systems undermines our food security, water supply, cultural identity, and economic development.

Recognising this urgent reality, Lesotho has renewed its commitment to the global community through the historic Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. This Third National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP III) is our nation's decisive and concrete response to that commitment. It represents a bold, strategic, and actionable roadmap for the period 2025-2030, aligning our national efforts with the global mission to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 and achieve harmony with nature by 2050.

The NBSAP III is not a document developed in isolation. It is the product of extensive collaboration, drawing on the lessons learnt from our past efforts, analysis of current challenges and opportunities, and inclusive consultations across government, civil society, academia, the private sector, and local communities. It moves us forward by adopting the 23 overarching targets of the global biodiversity framework and translating them into 19 tailored national targets. These targets address the critical drivers of biodiversity loss in Lesotho from unsustainable land use and overharvesting to invasive species, pollution, and the escalating impacts of climate change.

This Strategy goes beyond conservation. It is intrinsically linked to our National Strategic and Development Plan (NSDP II) aspirations. By mainstreaming biodiversity across all sectors agriculture, water, tourism, health, and planning we unlock nature-based solutions to our most pressing challenges: building climate resilience, restoring degraded lands, creating sustainable livelihoods, and ensuring equitable development for all Basotho. Crucially, it embeds the principles of fair and equitable sharing of benefits from our genetic resources, biosafety and the full integration of gender equality and social inclusion into the heart of our actions.

The successful implementation of this ambitious plan demands an unprecedented " whole-of-government and whole-of-society " approach. It calls for strong leadership, innovative partnerships, substantial resource mobilisation, and robust monitoring systems. As the Minister of Environment and Forestry, I pledge my Ministry's unwavering dedication to championing this agenda, strengthening coordination, and fostering the collaboration necessary to turn these plans into tangible results on the ground.

I therefore call upon every Ministry, development partners, private sector, civil society organisations and every citizen of Lesotho to embrace your role in this vital endeavour. Let us unite in action to conserve and restore our natural capital for the benefit of both present and future generations.

It is with a profound sense of responsibility and hope that I endorse Lesotho's Third National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Together, let us secure a living, thriving natural world for Lesotho.



.....

HONOURABLE LETSEMA ADONTŠI (MR.)
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIS	Alien Invasive Species
Biofin	Biodiversity Financing Initiative
BNR	Bokong Nature Reserve
CA	Conservation Area
CCF	Community Conservation Forum
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CDM	Clean Development Mechanisms
COP	Conference of the Parties
CPB	Cartegena Protocol on Biosafety
CBOs	Community-Based Organisations
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DLDD	Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought
DoE	Department of Environment
DDRM	Department of Range Resources Management
DWA	Department of Water Affairs
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
Ft	Feet
Gd	Grassland
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GoL	Government of Lesotho
GGWI	Great Green Wall Initiative
IACOV	Improving Adaptive Capacity of Vulnerable and Food-insecure Populations
ICM	Integrated Catchment Management
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
JBCC	Joint Bilateral Commission of Cooperation
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
IUCN	Union for Conservation of Nature
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
KM-GBF	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
LAC	Lesotho Agricultural College
LCE	Lesotho College of Education
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LDF	Lesotho Defence Force
LEA	Lesotho Environment Authority

LFS	Labour Force Survey
LHDA	Lesotho Highlands Development Authority
LHWP	Lesotho Highlands Water Project
LMPS	Lesotho Mounted Police Service
LMS	Lesotho Meteorological Service
LP	Lerotholi Polytechnic
LUCT	Limkokwing University of Creative Technology
MAB	Man and Biosphere Programme
MAFSN	Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition
MAT	Mutually Agreed Terms
MCC	Millenium Challenge Cooperation
MDTP	Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Project
MDA	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MDNS	Ministry of Defence and National Security
MDTCA	Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation Area
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MEF	Ministry of Environment and Forestry
MFAIR	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Relations
MFDP	Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
MGYSD	Ministry of Gender, Youth and Social Development
MICSTI	Ministry of Information, Communications, Science, Technology and Innovation
MLE	Ministry of Labour and Employment
MLGHAP	Ministry of Local Government, Home Affairs, and Police
MLJ	Ministry of Law and Justice
MNR	Ministry of Natural Resources
MoC	Memorandum of Cooperation
MoET	Ministry of Education and Training
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoU	Memorandum of understanding
MPS	Ministry of Public Service
MPWT	Ministry of Public Works and Transport
MTISB	Ministry of Trade, Industry and Small Business
MTSAC	Ministry of Tourism, Sports, Arts and Culture
NBF	National Biodiversity Framework
NbS	Nature-based Solutions
NBTs	National Biodiversity Targets
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NSDP	National Strategic Development Plan
NUL	National University of Lesotho
PAs	Protected Areas
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
PIC	Participants Informed Consent
PPP	Public-Private Partnership

PSC	Project Steering Committee
RoD	Record of Decisions
ROLL	Regeneration of Landscapes and Livelihoods
RSL	Revenue Services Lesotho
SADP	Smallholder Agriculture Development Project
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGP	Small Grants Programme
SNP	Sehlabathebe National Park
THPs	Traditional Health Practitioners
TFCA	Transfrontier Conservation Area
TNP	Tšehlanyane National Park
TSD	Teaching Service Department
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNCCD	Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change United
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
WaMCoP	Wool and Mohair Value Chain Competitiveness Project
WAMPP	Wool and Mohair Promotion Project
WHC	World Heritage Convention
WMIS	Waste Management Information Management System

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lesotho is renowned for its natural beauty characterised by spectacular physical formations of cliffs, valleys and mountain tops, as well as unique plants and wetlands. Some of these areas are considered to be rich in biodiversity, have high species endemism and are endowed with wetlands containing unique Alpine bogs. It is not surprising therefore that these areas attract tourists from near and afar who come to enjoy the country's natural wealth. However, some of the species are declining due several factors such as overharvesting, overgrazing, climate change, land degradation, unprescribed fires, habitat fragmentation, pollution, human wildlife conflicts.

To combat these challenges, the country has developed policies and legislative frameworks to ensure biodiversity conservation. Moreover, Lesotho is signatory to several Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) such as the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) together with its associated protocols namely; Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilisation. For Lesotho to make its commitment tangible and achievable under the UNCBD and its Protocols, a key requirement is to domesticate the global biodiversity obligations into the national context. One of the recent global commitments is the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF). The Framework provides strategic direction for implementation of UNCBD objectives, and builds on the Convention's Strategic Plans. Preparation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plans (NBSAPs) is one of the key mechanisms of domesticating global conservation agenda, specifically the one contained in the KM-GBF. The Government of Lesotho (GOL) through the Ministry of Environment and Forestry was mandated to review its NBSAP II and assess its alignment to the KM-GBF Goals and Targets, and thereafter develop NBSAP III, which is the current document.

The NBSAP III has been prepared to provide Lesotho with practical guidance on measures the country will implement towards conservation of its biodiversity, its sustainable use and ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from biodiversity utilisation. This will assist Lesotho to comply with its international obligations on biodiversity conservation under the UNCBD and its Protocols, as well as national legislation on related matters. The NBSAP provides background information on status of biodiversity, causes of its loss, the challenges and conservation measures being implemented in the country. NBSAP III also provides findings emanating from assessment of performance of NBSAP II and its alignment to the global KM-GBF Targets. NBSAP II had five Priority Goals and 21 National Targets. NBSAP II has notable achievements which are evident and these include; the enactment of legislations such as Plastic Levy Regulation 2022 and Environment Fund Regulations 2022; Implementation and institutionalization of the national ICM programme by ReNoka across sectoral plans and programmes; delineation of sub-catchments which affords Lesotho a chance to conserve its biodiversity and water resources, as well as critical ecosystems e.g. wetlands.

Of the 23 global targets set by the KM-GBF, Lesotho has aligned its NBSAP III with the four overarching Global Goals. The country has adapted and revised the previous Aichi targets to formulate 19 national targets that correspond with these global objectives. These are meant to ensure that '*by 2030, Lesotho's ecosystems are supported, conserved, restored and wisely used by a nation which values its biological diversity and are in balanced existence with the natural environment for the benefit of all Basotho'*. Supporting plans have been formulated to facilitate the operationalization of NBSAP III. These include; Policy Coherence Action Plan, Rapid Biodiversity Assessment Report, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Communication Strategy Plan, Capacity Building Plan, Technology Needs Assessment Report, Resource Mobilisation Plan, Gender Action Plan and Monitoring Action Plan. The latter includes mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting, and review which will track implementation progress for Lesotho's NBSAP III in line with attaining the KM-GBF aspirations.

The Rapid Biodiversity Assessment Report reveals that even though many ecosystems (such as grasslands, wetlands, and protected areas) still harbour a diverse range of plant and animal species, there are clear signs of decline due to human-induced pressures. Key drivers include overharvesting, overgrazing, unprescribed fires, invasive species, poor range management practices, climate change, pollution, weak enforcement of environmental laws and minimal conservation activities. Some species, such as *Merxmuellera* species (*Moseha*), *Pelargonium sidoides* (*Khoara*) are heavily harvested for commercial purposes. It is therefore necessary to update the IUCN Red Data Lists particularly for threatened species to assess their conservation status, thus ensure their protection and sustainable use. In addition, continuous research is also important to provide insights into the threats, population status and trends of the different species.

The country has implemented several interventions aimed at conserving biodiversity. These include establishment of protected areas and botanical gardens, designation of a world heritage site, a biosphere reserve, transfrontier conservation areas, deferred grassland areas (*Maboella*), establishment of gene banks and community seed banks. The country is also implementing projects and programmes focusing on ecosystem and landscape restoration and resilience, ecosystem-based adaptation, integrated catchment management (ICM), climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Despite concerted efforts and achievements towards biodiversity conservation, the country still faces several challenges. These include lack of comprehensive legislation which specifically addresses biodiversity, biosafety as well as Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS); some of the legislations are still in draft form and have not yet been enacted; there is no single piece of legislation which "holistically" addresses all the KM-GBF targets. These challenges need to be addressed and continuously monitored as the current strategy (NBSAP III) is being implemented and reviewed to ensure that it achieves the set goals and targets. It is therefore recommended that participation of all relevant stakeholders in biodiversity conservation, including private sector and communities, should be enhanced.

PART I: BASELINE AND SITUATION ANALYSIS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Many countries, including Lesotho, are facing unprecedented loss of biodiversity with negative implications for ecosystems, species and humans who subsist on ecosystem goods and services derived from biodiversity. To halt this loss, the global community has put in place several conservation initiatives such as the formulation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) that include the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) and its two protocols. The latter are the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilisation. The UNCBD seeks to protect biodiversity by implementing the three objectives: (1) conservation of biodiversity, (2) sustainable use of the components of biodiversity, and (3) the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources and the associated traditional knowledge.

Lesotho became a party to the CBD in 1995, thereby showcasing its commitment in reducing biodiversity loss, and ensuring a fair and equitable sharing when genetic resources are accessed and utilised. For parties to make their commitments tangible and achievable under the UNCBD and its Protocols, a key requirement is to domesticate the global biodiversity obligations into the national context. One of the recent global commitments is the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) which was agreed at the 15th Conference of Parties (CoP 15) for the Convention. The KM-GBF provides strategic direction for implementation of the CBD objectives, and builds on the Convention's previous Strategic Plans, particularly the recent one that ended in 2020. In addition, the KM-GBF supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and sets out an ambitious pathway to reach the global vision of "a world living in harmony with nature by 2050". This will be realised by implementing the key elements of the framework which are the four goals for 2050 and 23 targets for 2030.

Preparation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plans (NBSAPs) is one of the key mechanisms of domesticating global conservation agenda, specifically the one contained in the KM-GBF. The first NBSAP for Lesotho was developed in 2000, while a final draft of the second NBSAP was produced in 2020. Based on the foregoing, the Government of Lesotho (GOL) through the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MEF) received funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and technical support from UNEP to review its NBSAP II and align it to KM-GBF goals and targets and thereafter develop the new updated NBSAP III. Consequently, MEF engaged a consultant (Unlimited Consulting Services) to undertake the assignment to revise its NBSAP II and develop an undated NBSAP III in line with KM-GBF.

Key specialists' reports and plans have been produced to support implementation of NBSAP III, and are attached as separate annexes to the NBSAP III document, as follows:

Annex 1a: Monitoring Systems Gap Analysis Report.

Annex 1b: Monitoring Action Plan.
Annex 2: Policy and Institutional Frameworks Gap Analysis Report and Policy Coherence Action Plan.
Annex 3: Biodiversity Assessment Report.
Annex 4: Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
Annex 5: Communication Strategy.
Annex 6: Gender Action Plan.

1.2 Methodology

The assignment was undertaken using mainly a qualitative approach to data collection and analysis, embedding the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach (as per the Stakeholder Engagement Plan – **Annex 4**) for the NBSAP review. This consisted of both primary and secondary data collected through desk-top and literature reviews, stakeholder mapping for key institutions, and gender mainstreaming in all consultations. Semi-structured interviews with key informants and community members and field observations through physical surveys ensuring inclusion of Government, CSOs, women, youth, private sector, local communities. The stakeholder consultations were conducted through guided questions and matrices designed for government ministries and non-state actors, ensuring diverse voices shape the NBSAP. Consultations were also conducted remotely through digital platforms, while semi-structured interviews on biodiversity assessment were carried out face-to-face using a questionnaire administered by field enumerators.

1.3 Purpose of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) III

The purpose of Lesotho's Third National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP III) is to provide a strategic and practical national framework for the conservation of biodiversity, its sustainable use, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from its utilization. This NBSAP III has been reviewed and aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), adopted under CBD Decision 15/6, and in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which obliges Parties to develop national strategies that reflect the objectives of the Convention. By implementing this strategy, Lesotho will fulfil its international obligations under the CBD and its Protocols, while also giving effect to its national legislation on biodiversity and related matters.

1.4 Structure of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) III

The NBSAP III document is divided into six sections summarised below:

Section 1: Introduction

Establishes the critical context of the global biodiversity crisis and the international efforts to counter this decline and promote sustainable development. These initiatives encompass key multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), notably the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) and its associated Protocols. It then delineates the methodological approach adopted for the strategy's development, articulates the core purpose of NBSAP III, and concludes with an overview of the document's structure.

Section 2: Overview of National Biodiversity Context
Provides a comprehensive analysis of the national biodiversity landscape, detailing its current status, the primary drivers and far-reaching consequences of its degradation, and its fundamental value and importance for livelihoods and the national economy. Existing and proposed frameworks for conservation are also examined.

Section 3: Performance of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) II
Presents a detailed evaluation of the performance of Lesotho's preceding strategy, NBSAP II, by assessing progress against the defined indicators under its agreed priority goals, strategic initiatives, and outputs. This review is followed by a rigorous gap analysis, the findings of which directly informed and shaped the development of the updated NBSAP III.

Section 4: Lesotho's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) III
Articulates the nation's strategic vision for biodiversity conservation and outlines the detailed action plan (2025–2030) for its execution. It explicitly defines the national biodiversity goals and targets, ensuring their alignment and harmonization with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF).

Section 5: Means of Implementation
Outlines the specific Implementation Plans and enabling frameworks required to operationalize NBSAP III. It provides a brief summary of each plan and enumerates the essential resources, capacities, and institutional requirements crucial for ensuring successful execution.

Section 6: Conclusion and Recommendations
Synthesizes the strategy's important elements into definitive conclusions and actionable recommendations. It places strong emphasis on the imperative for unwavering commitment from all stakeholders and underscores the necessity of high-level support from the executive branches of the Lesotho government to guarantee the effective implementation of NBSAP III.

2.0 OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY CONTEXT

The baseline on biodiversity context in Lesotho was determined by conducting a desktop review and selected sites situational analysis (**Annex 3**) whose overview is presented in this Section.

2.1. Socio-economic context

Lesotho is a lower middle-income country located in southern Africa between latitudes 28°S and 31°S and longitudes 27°E and 30°E. It has ten administrative districts, namely: Maseru (capital city), Butha-Buthe, Leribe, Berea, Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, Quthing, Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka and Qacha's Nek, (**Figure 1**). The population of Lesotho is estimated at 2,007,201 (GOL, 2018). Basotho (people of Lesotho) have a life expectancy of 55.6 years.

Lesotho's socio-economic landscape is characterized by a predominantly rural population, high poverty levels, and a heavy reliance on subsistence agriculture. It exerts significant pressure on the country's natural resources and biodiversity. Approximately 62.7% of the population lives in rural areas relying on agriculture and livestock grazing as primary livelihood strategies, yet unsustainable land management practices contribute to environmental degradation (GOL, 2018; LVAC, 2024).

Overgrazing, soil erosion, and declining arable land have reduced productive capacity and food security, undermining socio-economic resilience in vulnerable communities. Such degradation does not occur in isolation; it directly alters habitats and reduces biodiversity, with grassland and wetland ecosystems experiencing accelerated loss of vegetation cover and soil fertility, affecting species diversity and ecological function. These patterns reflect broader environmental dynamics in Lesotho, where unsustainable agricultural expansion and land use change have been linked to the deterioration of ecological systems and the loss of both flora and fauna (Lesotho National Adaptation Plan 2021–2030; Lesotho Environment Outlook, CBD reporting).

Moreover, the interplay between socio-economic hardship and biodiversity loss is compounded by climate change and demographic pressures. With a high unemployment rate estimated at 30.1% and a poverty incidence of about 54% below the international poverty line ($1.90/day), households frequently resort to biomass extraction, rangeland overuse, and cultivation on marginal slopes, further accelerating soil degradation and habitat fragmentation. These activities have been shown to reduce indigenous plant populations, degrade rangelands, and decrease habitat quality for animal species, thereby eroding biodiversity and ecosystem services that are vital for rural livelihoods and environmental sustainability (CBD Country Report, 2025). The loss of biodiversity in turn weakens the resilience of ecosystems to climate variability (e.g., droughts and erratic rainfall), making it harder for communities to adapt and recover, and perpetuating a cycle of environmental decline and socio-economic vulnerability. Addressing these interconnected challenges thus requires integrated approaches that reconcile rural development, sustainable agricultural practices, and biodiversity conservation as part of national planning and policy implementation.

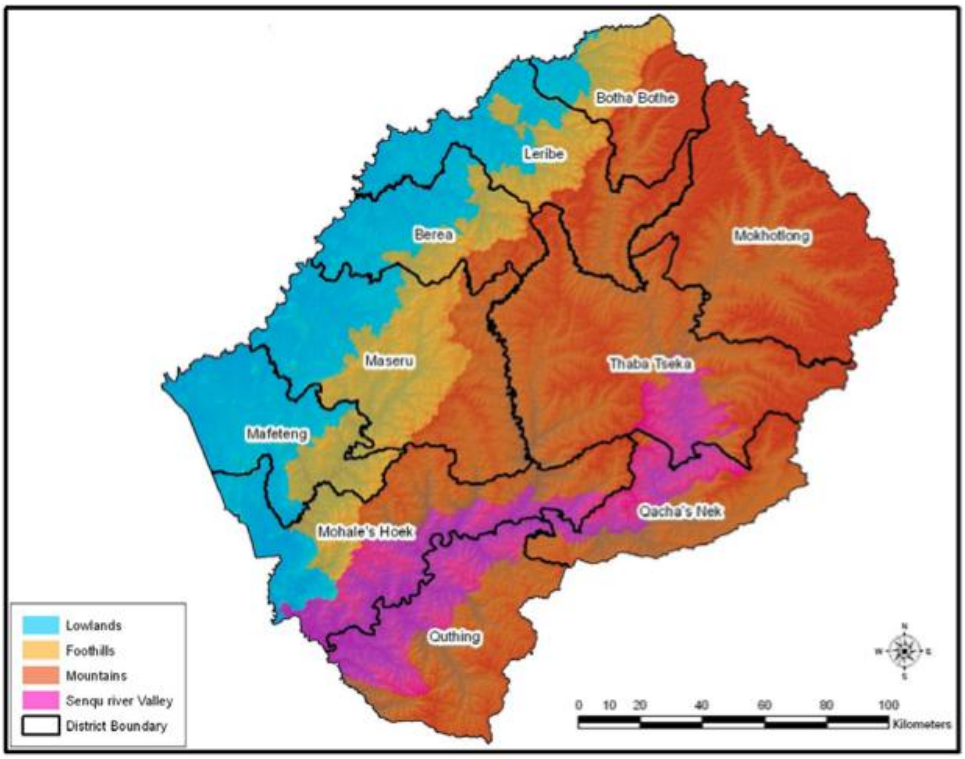


Figure 2. Ten administrative districts of Lesotho spread across the four agroecological zones (Source: GOL 2010).

2.2 Biophysical context

Lesotho has a continental temperate climate whereby it experiences hot summers and cold winters. There are four seasons, namely; Spring (starting from September to November), Summer (starting from December to February), Autumn (starting from March to May) and Winter (starting from June to August). The country's geographical position and topography expose it to climatological patterns from both the Indian and Atlantic Oceans resulting in high climate variability and extremes. These are expected to increase in frequency and intensity in the future (GOL, 2015a). Temperatures are generally lower than those of other inland regions of similar latitude due to the overall altitude of the country (GOL, 2015b). The rainfall is highly erratic and variable, falling mainly from October to April during the rainy season.

Lesotho's geology mainly consists of basalt (volcanic extrusions, mostly in the Highlands) and sedimentary rocks (e.g. sand and mud stones, mostly in the Lowlands) (Rapopo and Sobie 2018). This geology, together with effects of major historical geological events (e.g. volcanic activity and tectonic processes) have shaped Lesotho's soil types (Smith et al. 2009; Bordy et al. 2023). These geological events, together with the country's, geographical position, topography and climate predisposes it to land severe land degradation observed to date (**Figure 2**). The land degradation problems have also been exacerbated by the land-use and land-use changes as a result of anthropogenic factors. This threat is one of the largest drivers of biodiversity loss in Lesotho resulting in vegetation loss and degradation of critical ecosystems.

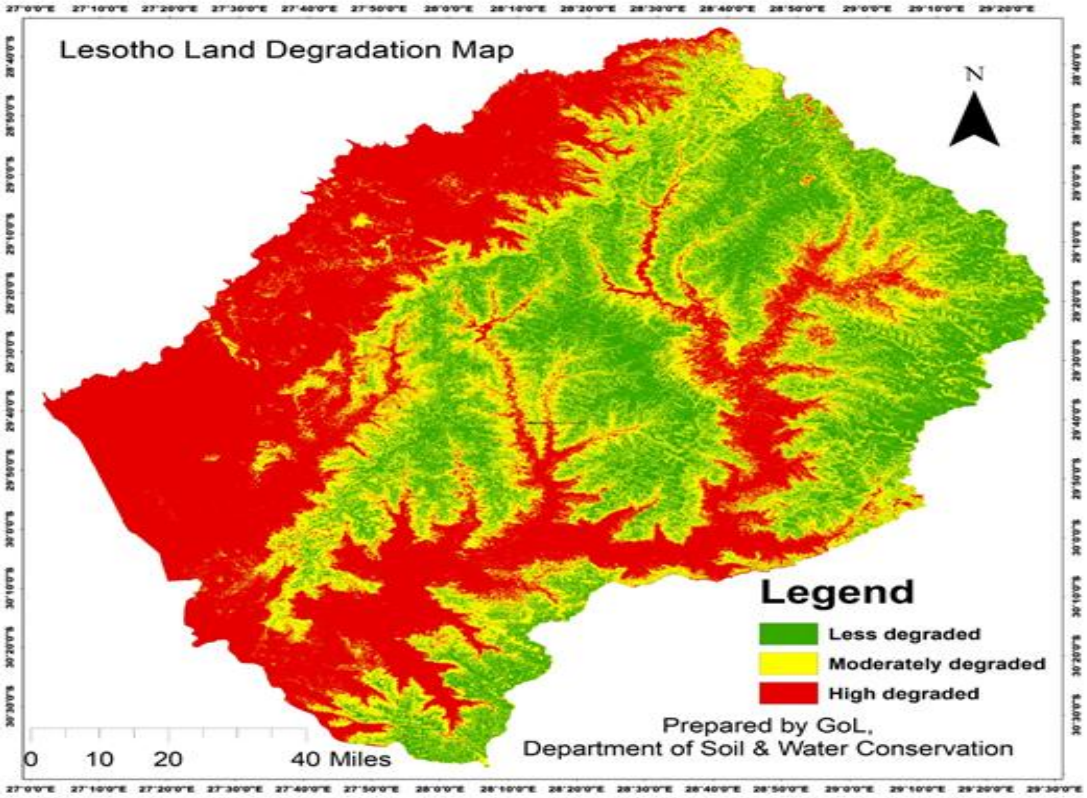


Figure 2. Lesotho land degradation map (Source: Land Cover Map 2021).

Figure 2 shows spatial variation in land degradation susceptibility across the ecological zones of Lesotho with the highest degradation levels experienced mainly in the Lowlands and the Senqu River Valley. This is a result of moderate to high temperatures, low biomass production and fragile soil types which prevail (i.e. duplex) in the zones. The degradation is further exacerbated by intensive land-use and land use change activities and hydrological processes associated with proximity to river channels, which collectively increase land exposure to soil erosion susceptibility.

In contrast, the Highlands exhibit low degradation levels, despite their relatively steep topography. This can be attributed to lower temperatures, moderate to higher biomass production status indicating healthier and denser vegetation cover, moderately stable soils, which enhance landscape resilience and reduce runoff-induced erosion. The Foothills generally fall within moderate degradation classes, reflecting transitional conditions characterised by moderate temperatures, intermediate biomass production, and soils of moderate fragility.

2.3 National biodiversity status

According to Mucina and Rutherford (2006), the whole of Lesotho is a Grassland Biome characterized largely by grasses and geophytes. The country has a total of 15 Grassland vegetation types (**Figure 3**). Of these, the main vegetation type in Lesotho is the Lesotho Basalt Grassland vegetation.

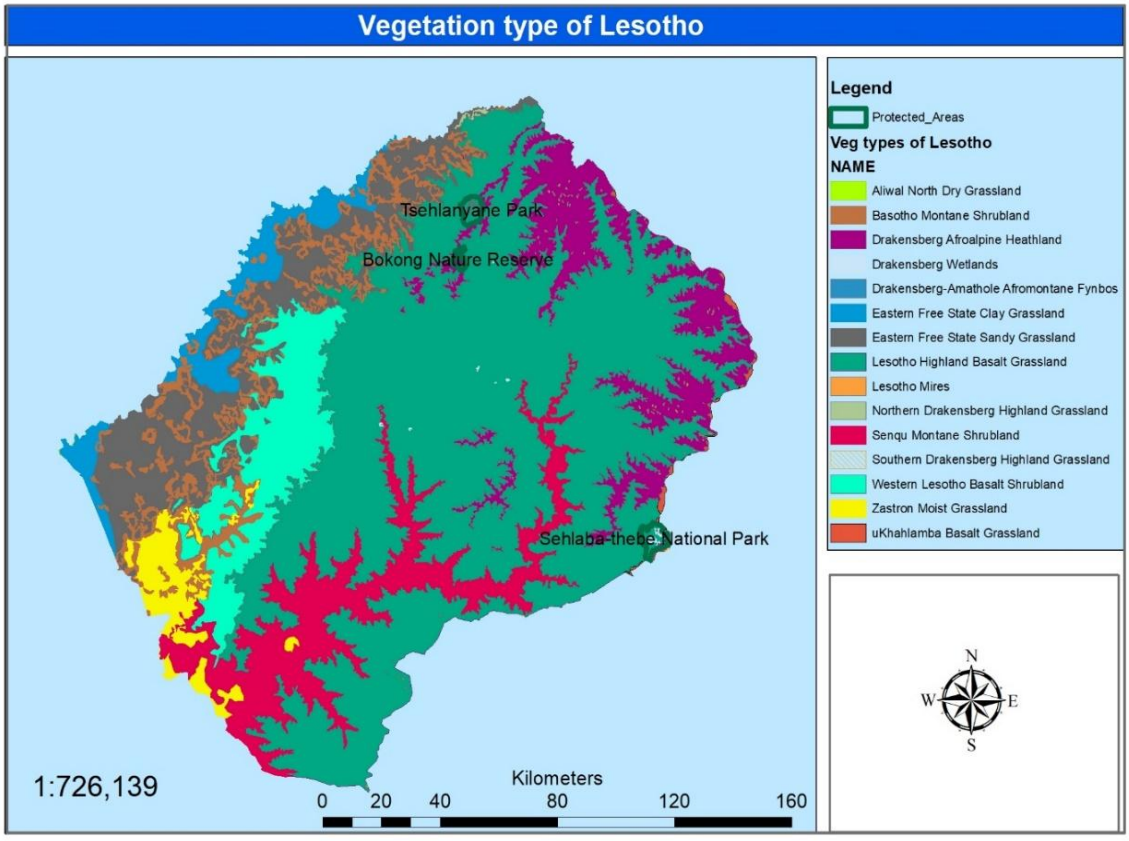


Figure 3. Lesotho vegetation map (Mucina and Rutherford 2006).

Lesotho is characterised by a rich biodiversity with high species endemism. This uniqueness consists of special habitats such as high-altitude wetlands and specialised Alpine habitats. For example, Lesotho is a habitat to the following number of species: 3, 093 plants, 82 mammals, 43 reptiles, 19 amphibians, 14 fish, 340 birds and 1,279 invertebrates (IUCN, 2024). Some of these species have global significance and are true endemics to the country, for example, the Sehlabathebe Water Lily (*Aponogeton ranunculiflorus*), Spiral Aloe (*Aloe polyphylla, Lekhala Kharetsa*), the endangered Maloti Minnow (*Pseudobarbus quathlambae, Thoboshoana*) (**Figure 4**) and Ice Rat (*Otomys sloggetti, Leboli-Leqhoa)* (IUCN, 2024; Seleteng-Kose et al., 2021). It is not surprising therefore that Lesotho is home to about 70% of the Drakensberg Alpine Centre (DAC), a globally recognised biodiversity hot-spot located in the Maluti-Drakensberg Mountains of southern Africa (Carbutt and Edwards, 2004; Cartbutt, 2019). The hotspot is also known for its high species endemism (Cowling and Hilton-Taylor 1994; Pomela et al., 2000; Adams et al., 1999).



Figure 4. Lesotho's endemics – Spiral Aloe (left) and Maloti Minnow (right), (Sources: K. Kobisi & LHDA respectively).

The biodiversity status in Lesotho is comprehensively described in the Biodiversity Assessment Report (**Annex 3**), which should be read together with this NBSAP document. The findings of the report reflect a mixture of ecological benefits and increasing vulnerability. While many ecosystems, particularly grasslands, wetlands, and protected areas (e.g. national parks) still harbour a diverse range of plant and animal species, there are clear signs of decline due to human-induced pressures. Key drivers include overharvesting, overgrazing, unprescribed fires, invasive species, pollution, climate change and weak enforcement of environmental laws, minimal conservation activities. Certain species, such as *Merxmuellera* species (*Moseha*), *Pelargonium sidoides* (*Khoara*) and other valuable biological resources are depleting due to overexploitation and unsustainable use.

2.3.1 Causes and consequences of biodiversity loss

Despite being rich in biodiversity, Lesotho faces a myriad of environmental challenges which threaten its biodiversity and ecosystems. Lesotho's biodiversity is threatened by direct and indirect factors that contribute to the current and predicted future loss in biodiversity. The indirect factors include poverty, population growth, legislative and policy limitations, stock theft, poor rangeland management, communal grazing system, governance and institutional issues and lack of awareness. These influence the direct drivers of biodiversity loss that include loss of vegetation cover, habitat transformation, unsustainable cultivation practices, land degradation, over-exploitation of biological resources (overharvesting, overgrazing), developmental activities, uncontrolled fires, invasive alien species, pollution and global climate change (Bereng, 2022; Motjotji 2020; ReNoka, 2019; GOL, 2017). The individual and interactive effect of these factors contributes to the loss of biodiversity. It is evident that most of these factors are human-induced, such as over-stocking and over-grazing of rangelands, encroachment of arable land and habitat destruction from developmental activities (e.g., mining industry).

In the case of medicinal plants, over-exploitation for commercial trade purposes (**Table 1**) has contributed to the declining populations of targeted species such as *H. hemerocallidea* and *D. anomala* (Motjotji et al., 2023; Motjotji 2020). Even though *P. sidoides* populations are not

reported to be declining according to the recent South African Red Data Listing, the plant has been shown to be threatened by over-exploitation resulting from commercial trade and habitat destruction (Biodiversity Assessment Report 2025; de Castro et al., 2012; Motjotji 2012). In some cases, harvested quantities of the threatened plants are high as reflected in the issued harvest permits as captured in **Table 1**.

Table 1. A summary of harvested plants with issued permits for ethnobotanical and commercial utilisation

Harvested species	Ethnobotanical use	Conservation/ country threat status	Total amount harvest (as per issued permits) in Tonnes	Number of harvesters and harvest areas
Rosa rubiginosa (Rosehip, *Morobei*)	Medicinal, food (humans & livestock), Cosmetic	Exotic, invasive	3,756.04	13 harvesters 21 areas of harvest The most harvested plant in the country (harvested in large quantities in Matsoku (1000 tonnes), followed by Bokong (108 tonnes), Likolobeng, Maliba-matso, Nqoe, Semonkong @ 100 tonnes)
Pelargonium sidoides (*Khoara*)	Medicinal	LC, legally protected	728.4	13 harvesters 15 areas of harvest Harvesting is more rife in Matsoku, Semonkong, Qanya (@100 tonnes/area)
Merxmuellera sp. (*Moseha*, Mountain broom grass)	Brooms, thatching, ropes, hats	LC, legally protected	72	3 harvesters 3 areas of harvest (Bolahla, but 2 others not specified)
Helichrysum odoratissimum (*Phefo*)	Medicinal	LC	25	2 harvesters, 2 areas of harvest (Makhoalipana, Nqoe – Botha-Bothe
Felicia filifolia (*Sehala-hala /Leholo*)	Fuel	LC	10	1 harvester 1 area of harvest (Makhoalipana – Maseru
Cymbopogon sp. (Lemon grass, *Lebate*)	Medicinal, veterinary, thatching	LC	0.01	1 harvester 1 area of harvest (Maoa-Mafubelu – Leribe)

N.b.: LC – Least Concern

Other threats facing biodiversity include wildfires and poor range management practices. Several incidences of fire occurrences were experienced in the country between July-August 2024 as depicted in **Figure 5**. Some of these fires occurred in the three protected areas of

Lesotho (Sehlabathebe National Park, Bokong Nature Reserve and Tšehlanyane National Park) suggesting a major threat to these biodiversity hotspots. These fires are largely anthropogenic, attributed to the presence of human activities in the cattle posts, villages and in the foothills and conflicts emanating from grazing disputes and livestock theft inland and along the southeastern border with South Africa (GOL, 2024).

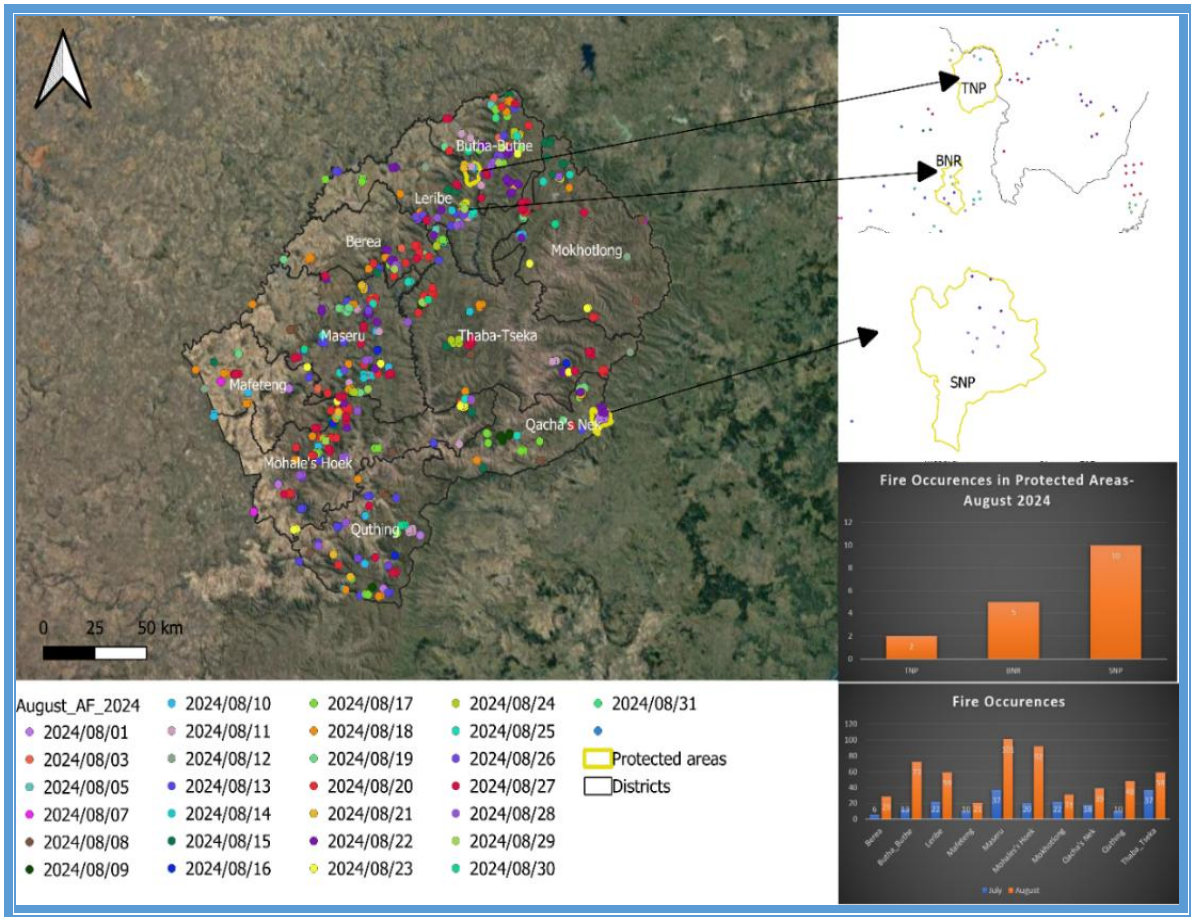


Figure 5. Fire occurrences country-wide from July-August 2024, including Protected Areas (Tšehlanyane National Park-TNP, Bokong Nature Reserve-BNR, and Sehlabathebe National Park-SNP), Source GOL, 2024.

2.3.2 Biodiversity and ecosystems value

Biodiversity and ecosystems provide critical goods and services for supporting livelihoods of Basotho and Lesotho's socioeconomic development. It provides essential resources such as wild vegetables, fruits, and clean water from wetlands, which are used for both human consumption and livestock needs. Some grasses are also utilized for building/thatching and to produce crafts such as mats, brooms, and hats. Furthermore, biodiversity sustains grazing lands for livestock, supplies medicinal plant species, and serves as a primary source of fuelwood. The communities also engage in biotrade activities whereby they sell medicinal plants such as *P. sidoides* and *Merxmuellera* sp. to obtain income (**Figure 6**). The plants are sold to mainly to supply the international markets.



Figure 6. Harvested Merxmuellera sp. (*Moseha*, Mountain broom grass) ready for sale to biotraders at Mphosong, Leribe District Lesotho (source: K. Kobisi).

2.3.3 Climate change and biodiversity

Climate change is a major driver of biodiversity loss, impacting ecosystems through rising temperatures, altered rainfall patterns, and more frequent extreme weather events such as fires, storms, and droughts (IPBES, 2019). These changes disrupt natural habitats and put additional stress on species already threatened by human activities, leading to declines in population and even extinction. For example, warming temperatures have caused shifts in species distributions, such as alpine plants moving to higher elevations and declines in cold-dependent species. Moreover, climate change exacerbates other pressures on biodiversity, making ecosystems more vulnerable to degradation and reducing their capacity to regulate climate. Addressing climate change is therefore critical not only to protect biodiversity but also to maintain the natural systems that help mitigate climate impacts.

2.3.4. Gender and biodiversity

The interlinkages between biodiversity and gender can no longer be overlooked, particularly in lower middle countries such as Lesotho. It is important to understand and prioritise them in any biodiversity conservation interventions. This is because biodiversity is important for meeting socio-economic needs of the population especially for the vulnerable and marginalised members of society such as women, youth and the disabled people. As it is, the country experiences high rates of poverty, income inequality, and unemployment, and with notable gender gaps across indicators. With a national poverty rate of 49.7 percent in 2017, poverty also has a strong gender and rural dimension. For example, female-headed households, particularly those headed by single women, experience acute levels of poverty at 64 percent (IUCN 2025).

In addition, the control and ownership of productive resources such as land and water in Lesotho favour men more than women (BOS 2023). Ownership of land and houses in Lesotho

is gendered. The GOL (2020) estimates that 72% of men versus 28% of women own land suggesting a marginal representation of women in agricultural production.

2.3.5 Biodiversity conservation measures and interventions

Lesotho has implemented several interventions aimed at conserving biodiversity in the country. These include *in-situ* (e.g. protected areas) and *ex-situ* conservation measures implemented by different institutions at the national, district and local levels. The latter consists of botanical gardens, gene banks and community seed banks. The former comprises protected areas, as well as *Maboella* (traditional communal land management systems where chiefs set aside specific areas for grazing or resource collection at certain times to allow regeneration, preventing overgrazing and protecting ecosystem). Furthermore, there is a privately owned Snake Park in Qacha's Nek. A feasibility study was undertaken to expand the Snake Park. However, the area was found to be non-suitable for other snake species, thus can only be used as a corridor. In addition, supporting interventions in the form of legislative and policy frameworks, ratification of various MEAs and biodiversity research have been implemented by various institutions. There have also been projects and programmes ensuring biodiversity conservation, climate change and gender mainstreaming in biodiversity issues.

The above-mentioned conservation measures and their implementation are summarised in this Section, covering baseline situation, achievements and challenges.

2.3.5.1 Baseline situation and achievements

Lesotho has five formally protected areas namely, Sehlabathebe National Park (6,500 ha), Tšehlanyane National Park (5,600 ha), Bokong Nature Reserve (1,970 ha), Liphofung Cave and Cultural Heritage Site (6 ha), as well as Letša-la-Letsie (434 ha), which is a Ramsar site. Sehlabathebe National Park (SNP) has been a declared world heritage site by the UNESCO (UNESCO, 2013). Furthermore, the SNP has been merged with the uKhahlamba Drakensberg National Park in South Africa to form a transboundary protected area, known as the Maloti-Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site (MDP WHS). This heritage site is a haven for many threatened and endemic species. Lesotho's two protected areas (Tšehlanyane National Park and the Bokong Nature Reserve) have jointly been designation as the country's first UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve (MAB), known as Matšeng Biosphere Reserve. Moreover, Liphofung Cave and Cultural Heritage Site is endowed with rich cultural, historical and archaeological heritage. Additionally, Letša-la-Letsie in the Quthing District has been designated as a Ramsar site, and thus accorded protection which helps to meet biodiversity conservation goals. Over and above the formally designated protected areas, there are several areas that are either informally designated or proposed for protection in various parts of the country.

Several projects and programmes funded under the government of Lesotho and donor support from development partners have also been developed and implemented on biodiversity conservation. These projects and programmes focus on ecosystem and landscape restoration and resilience, ecosystem-based adaptation, integrated catchment management (ICM), climate change mitigation and adaptation. Some of the projects and programmes, are shown in **Figure 7,** such as Regeneration of Livelihoods and Landscapes (ROLL); Integrated Watershed

Management for Improved Agro-Pastoral Livelihoods in the Sepabala Sub-catchment; Improving adaptive capacity of vulnerable and food-insecure populations in Lesotho (IACOV). Other projects and programmes (not reflected in **Figure 7**) are indicated below:

- Global Environment Facility (GEF) Projects
    - Promoting conservation, sustainable utilization and fair and equitable benefit-sharing from Lesotho's Medicinal Plants for improved livelihoods
    - Integration of Natural Capital Accounting into Lesotho's Policy and Decision Making for Sustainable Development
    - Wool and Mohair Value Chain Competitiveness Project (WAMCoP)
    - Building Climate Resilient Livelihoods and Food Systems
    - Biodiversity Financing Initiative (Biofin)
    - Promotion of Circular Economy in the Textile and Garment Sector through the sustainable management of chemicals and waste in Lesotho
- GEF Small Grants Programme
    - Adoption of appropriate technologies for improved Horticultural Production and Food Preservation
    - Conservation and Efficient use of Water Resources for Improved Horticultural Production
    - Tsatsane Sustainable Rangeland Management and Breed Improvement Breed
- Catchment management programme through Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) and ReNoka
- Land Rehabilitation Programme (LRP) by the GOL

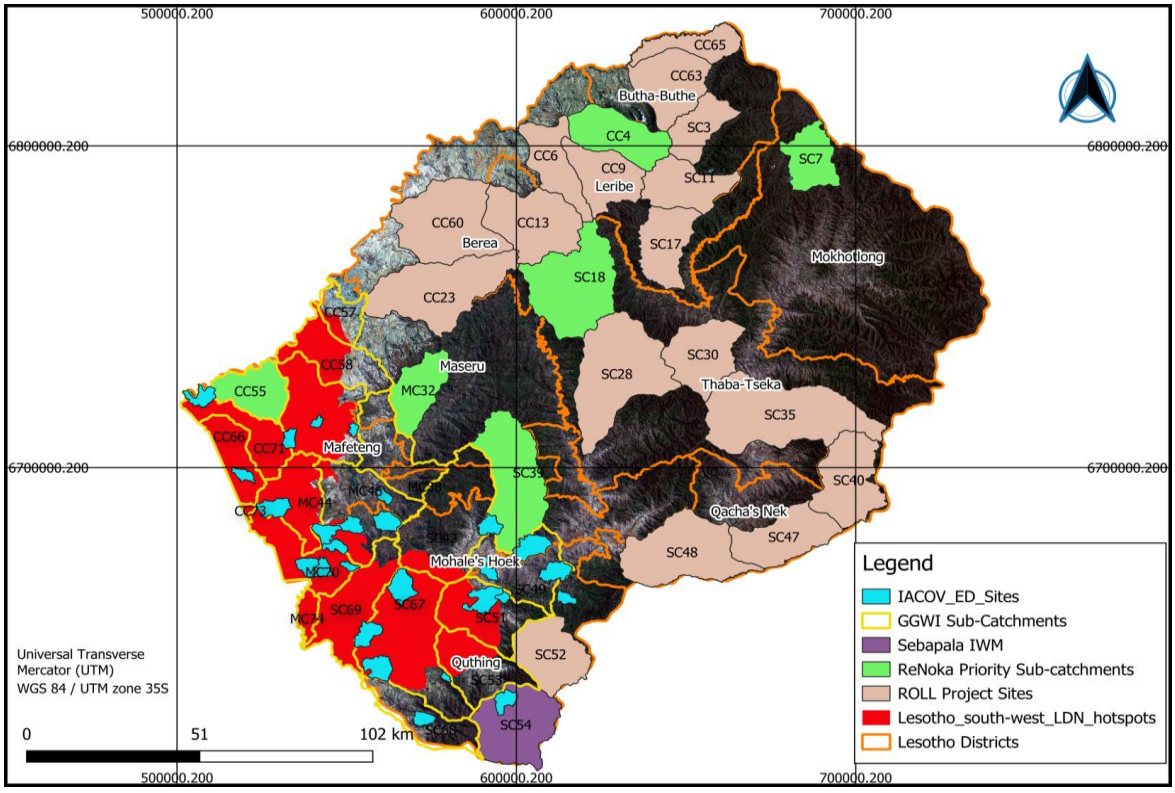


Figure 7. Projects and programmes on land and biodiversity management in Lesotho (source: Ministry of Environment and Forestry, 2024).

2.4 Policy and regulatory frameworks

Information contained in this section is a summary of key points extracted from the comprehensive Special Report and Plan (Policy Gap Analysis and Coherence Action Plan 2025-2030) prepared to determine baseline policy and regulatory frameworks in Lesotho (**Annex 2**). Firstly, the baseline situation (i.e. achievements) is presented, followed by challenges.

2.4.1 Baseline Situation and Achievements

- **Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements**

The country is a party to several Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) aimed at biodiversity conservation, land degradation, environmental protection, chemicals and climate change mitigation and adaptation. In addition to UNCBD and its protocols (Cartagena Protocol, Nagoya Protocol), the country is a signatory to:

- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNCCC)
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
- International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Based on its commitment to the above-mentioned agreements and national obligations contained in the policy frameworks, Lesotho is obliged to join the global community in addressing biodiversity loss. One of the key obligations which Lesotho has to comply with relates to the development of legislative frameworks and other administrative measures to facilitate the domestication of MEAs into national context.

Lesotho has made strides to develop policies and legislation on biodiversity conservation and related matters including the following:

- **Policies, Strategies, Plans and Reports**

A. A list of some of the policies include: Soil and Water Conservation Policy 2021; Livestock Policy 2021; National Plant Protection Policy 2021; Gender and Development Policy 2018–2030; Longterm Water and Sanitation Strategy 2016; Lesotho Energy Policy 2015 -2025; National Climate Change Policy (2018-2030); National Range Resources Policy 2014; Lesotho Science and Technology Policy 2006 – 2011; Lesotho Water and Sanitation Policy 2007; Water and Sanitation Policy 2007; Seed Policy 2016; National Biosafety Policy for Lesotho 2005; National Environment Policy 1998; Livestock and Range management policy 1994; National Forestry Policy 2025.

Lesotho has also produced and implemented several strategies and plans to date such as:

- NBSAP II (2025); Extended National Strategic Development Plan II (NSDP II) 2023/2024-2027/2028; National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) on Climate

Change (2007); National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) 1989; National Drought Contingency Plan 2018/2019; Integrated Catchment Management Framework; Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) strategy.

- National Reports to various Conventions have been produced, which include the 5th and 6th National Reports to CBD; Interim Report on Nagoya Protocol; 4th National Report on Cartegena Protocol.
- Other policies, strategies and plans were prepared even though they are still in a draft form, e.g. Blue Economy Strategy 2024.
- In terms of mainstreaming biodiversity across sectoral and cross sectoral plans, the country has made positive strides including biodiversity conservation and sustainable use aspirations in the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) II Extended 2023/24-2027/28 II, thereby signifying their importance as national priorities. Furthermore, the Gender and Development Policy 2018–2030 has incorporated environmental considerations, thus highlighting intricate links in the biodiversity-gender nexus.

- **Legislation:**

Several legislative frameworks were drafted and enacted towards biodiversity conservation, and these include:

Plastic Levy Regulations 2022, Environment Fund Regulations 2022, Environment Act 2008, Land Act 2010, National Heritage Act 2011, Mines and Minerals Act 2005, Forestry Act 1998, Local Government Act 1997 (As Amended), National Parks Act 1975 and Historical Monument, Relics, Fauna and Flora Act 1967.

Notwithstanding the above-mentioned regulatory developments, the country has experienced some challenges in fully regulating and managing biodiversity conservation. The key gaps and challenges are presented below:

2.4.2 Challenges on Policies, legislative frameworks and related administrative tools

- To date, there is no comprehensive legislation specifically addressing biodiversity, biosafety and ABS. Such legislation is still in draft forms and has not yet been enacted. For example, Biodiversity Resource Management Bill 2025. Range Resources Management Bill 2025 and Toxic and Hazardous Chemicals Management 2025.
- Besides being outdated, legislation addressing biodiversity conservation is too general such as the Environment Act 2008. There are also no by-laws which have been published by any local authority in Lesotho, even though a few community councils have drafted by-laws.
- The available legislations have not explicitly and adequately addressed issues of (i) international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora, (ii) access to genetic resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilisation.

3.0 PERFORMANCE OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN (NBSAP) II

To date, Lesotho has developed two National Biodiversity Strategies-NBSAP I prepared in 2000 and NBSAP II in 2020. The second NBSAP was developed to incorporate Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and in line with the previous Strategic Plan 2011-2020. NBSAP II contained five national biodiversity goals and 21 National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs) as reflected in **Table 2**. In parallel, a total of 4 Plans (Communication, Resource Mobilisation, Needs Assessment and Capacity Building) were developed supporting implementation of the NBSAP II.

Table 2. A summary of progress and achievements in the implementation of NBSAP II.

Priority Goal I: National Targets for Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation Programmes	
National Targets	**Progress and Achievements**
NT1: By 2030, 70% of the population in Lesotho is aware of the values of biodiversity and ecosystems services and willingly participates in biodiversity conservation activities and projects.	1. A draft Communication Strategy developed to implement NBSAP II. 2. Radio programmes, public gatherings, community consultations. 3. Environmental Educational Strategy 2009 developed. 4. Awareness on biodiversity issues undertaken, including for security agencies (army and the police). 5. Stocktaking and Assessment Report for 5th Biodiversity National Report & NBSAP II. 6. Several projects developed and Implemented e.g. ReNoka, WAMPP, ROLL, SADP I and II, APPSA, GEF and GEF SGP 7. Bilateral committees and cooperations established between Lesotho and South Africa through Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Project (MDTP).
NT2: By 2030, biodiversity values have been integrated into all strategic development plans at national, sectoral, departmental and local levels.	1. Decentralization of DOE functions to district Level (Biodiversity, Pollution, EIA). 2. Biodiversity values and conservation issues have been mainstreamed into NSDP, Climate Change (e.g. 3rd National Communication), Land Management and Energy Policies and Strategies. 3. Institutionalised EIA functions in government structures and local councils. 4. Some councils have drafted By-laws for natural resources and biodiversity (e.g. Seate J01, Mphokojoane J02, Tosing G02). 5. Integration of National Capital accounting into Lesotho' s policy and decision making for sustainable development.

NT3: By 2030, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and implemented.	1. Environment Fund Regulations 2022 2. Plastic Levy Regulations 2022
NT4: By 2030, at the latest, public institutions, the private sector, and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.	1. MDTP 20-year conservation strategy; Biodiversity Management Plan for *Pelargonium sidoides* developed by Traffic for South Africa, inclusive of Lesotho. 2. Management Plans for the four Protected areas (SNP, BNR, TNP and Liphofung) have been developed, and Matšeng Biosphere reserve has integrated management plans. 3. Permitting system that regulates harvesting and sale of biodiversity resources is in place. 4. EIA Regulations (2025) have been developed
NT5: By 2025, the private sector and non-state organizations have taken initiatives to promote and integrate biodiversity and ecosystem conservation activities among communities in at least 5 districts	1. Some councils have draft By-laws for biodiversity and ecosystem conservation. 2. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidelines are in place which provide standard operating procedure prior to developmental activities 3. EIA Regulations have been developed for management of developmental activities and assessment of their impact on the environment, regulated through development of Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) to protect the environment and subsequent Environmental Clearance
Priority Goal II: National Targets for reduction of direct pressures on biodiversity	
NT6: By 2030 major threats to biodiversity are reduced by 20%, and 70% of degraded ecosystems, especially wetlands and rangelands is rehabilitated.	1. Law enforcement has been enhanced through establishment of the Environment Crimes Unit. 2. Development of Biodiversity Resources Bill and Range Resources Management Bill, and CITES legislation has been drafted. 3. Plastic Levy Regulation has been enacted, as well as the Environment Fund Regulations. 4. ICM Programme and strategies are being implemented. LHDA is also undertaking various wetland restoration activities in its catchment. 5. The 3rd National Communication has mainstreamed biodiversity issues.
NT7: By 2030, at least 50% of areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	1. LHDA and MAFSN have capacitated different stakeholders on developing relevant strategies and policies (e.g. Blue Economy Strategy, Livestock Policy). 2. MAFSN and other stakeholders engaged in promoting climate smart agriculture all over the country, and developed a website on conservation agriculture.

NT8: By 2025, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem functioning and biodiversity	1. Pollution hotspots have been mapped in some places in different districts. 2. Plastic Levy developed to reduce plastic pollution. 3. Education and Awareness raising are conducted by the Department of Environment and the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police. 4. Occupational Safety and Health Act 2024, and Radiation Protection Agency Act 2018. 5. Promotion of the concept of recycle, reduce and re-use. There are numerous waste collectors for recycling of waste into commodities and artefacts. 6. Department of Environment has also developed a web-based database on waste management information (Waste Management Information Management System-WMIS). 7. Integrated Solid Management Strategy was developed. 8. The Tšoeneng landfill has been identified for waste management, even though not yet operational for general waste.
NT9: By 2025, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment in Lesotho	1. The distribution of alien invasive species was mapped in 2005 and 2007. 2. MAFSN and MEF undertake recurrent activities on IAS identification and management. 3. MEF assesses rangeland quality and encroachment by certain IAS e.g. *Chrysocoma ciliata (Sehalahala)*. 4. MAFSN issues phytosanitory certificates on plant species which cross the border. 5. RSL and MAFSN have placed Officers at the ports of entry to ensure compliance.
NT10: By 2025, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on vulnerable ecosystems (e.g. mountain ecosystems and wetlands) impacted by climate change reduced so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.	1. Vulnerability Assessment have been undertaken through Disaster Management Authority and LMS. 2. The Lesotho Land Rehabilitation Programme is implemented in various parts of the country. 3. EIA is enforced through the Environment Act (2008) and other related legislations.
Priority Goal III: National Targets for improved status of biodiversity	
NT11: By 2030, at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape.	1. Management Plans have been developed for the 4 protected (SNP -UNESCO World Heritage Site, BNR, TNP and Letša-la-Letsie - a RAMSAR Site). 2. TNP and BNR have been designated into a Man and Biosphere Reserve. 3. Capacity of PA staff has been built on fire management, vulture conservation and management of wildlife poisoning. 4. CCFs and relevant community members have been sensitised on biodiversity conservation. 5. There is a fire station for monitoring fire occurrences at SNP.

	6. Continuous capacity building undertaken for Grazing Associations.
NT12: By 2030, at least 50% of known threatened species has been prevented from extinction and their conservation status improved and sustained	1. IUCN Plant Red Data listing was undertaken in 2002. 2. Biodiversity Management Plan for *Pelargonium sidoides* (*Khoara*) developed by Traffic for South Africa, inclusive of Lesotho. 3. LHDA Maloti Minnow management plan. 4. Katse Botanical Garden and NUL Botanical Garden, as well as community based botanical gardens e.g. Tšenekeng. 5. The CITES Bill has been approved by Cabinet, awaiting normal legal processes. 6. Environment Crime Unit under MEF undertakes environmental awareness campaigns and fosters compliance with relevant legislation.
NT13: By 2025, at least 50% of the genetic diversity of local animal and plant breeds and landraces as well as their wild relatives are conserved, in order to minimize genetic erosion.	1. MAFSN has developed National Livestock Policy 2021, Seed Policy 2016, Plant Protection Policy 2021, Food and Nutrition Policy 2016. 2. MAFSN mobilises communities to have communal gene banks.
NT14: By 2025, protection measures in the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as well as pose risks to human health are in place	3. LMO laboratories have been established at NUL and Agric Research. 4. The Biosafety Bill was approved in cabinet l and awaiting parliament presentation. 5. The Biosafety Policy 2015 was developed. 6. Awareness campaigns undertaken through the NBF II Project.
Priority Goal iv: National Targets for enhanced benefits that accrue from biodiversity and ecosystem services	
NT15: By 2030, 50-70% of ecosystems that provide essential services to human well-being and contribute to health as well as livelihoods are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of local communities, especially vulnerable groups.	1. Land rehabilitation activities continuously undertaken in various parts of the country, using ICM compendium as a guiding tool. 2. The Range Management Policy is currently being revised. 3. Community eco-tourism activities through the SGP, e.g. for protection of Bald Ibis. 4. Wetland protection in some places e.g. Mokema. 5. Awareness and sensitisation campaigns undertaken by ReNoka and MEF. 6. Cleaning campaigns regularly undertaken.
NT16: By 2030, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration of at least ___% of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification	1. MEF capacitates communities to develop grazing management plans. 2. Local authorities and communities capacitated on rehabilitation and restoration of forests and rangelands. 3. Wetland rehabilitation undertaken by LHDA, DWA, DDRM, Soil and Water Conservation.

NT17: By 2030, appropriate legislation and policy instruments are developed and institutional structures are in place for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization.	1. ABS Project is currently operational aimed at developing institutional, structural and legal frameworks on Nagoya Protocol, as well as providing capacity building. 2. IP Policy is currently being developed (by Law Office).
Priority Goal v: National Targets for enhanced implementation of NBSAP and Indicators	
NT18: By 2020, Lesotho has developed, and commenced implementing an effective participatory and updated NBSAP and has adopted it as a policy instrument across all sectors.	1. NBSAP II was developed, even though there were delays in its validated and approval as a policy instrument. Therefore, it was implemented in a fragmented manner.
NT19: By 2030, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and the customary use of biological resources are (legally) respected and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of CBD with the full and effective participation of local communities at all relevant levels.	1. Research and Innovation Policy developed by the Ministry of Information, Communications, Science, Technology and Innovation. 2. A project is currently being implemented on 'Promoting Conservation, Sustainable Utilization, and Fair and Equitable Benefit-Sharing from Lesotho's Medicinal Plants for Improved Livelihoods' (commonly called ABS Project). 3. IKS Policy has been developed.
NT20: By 2030, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied	1. Collaborations between scientific and IKS holders established. 2. Research undertaken by academic institutions, particularly on medicinal plants. 3. Biosafety projects (Multi Country Project to Strengthen Institutional Capacity on LMO testing (MCP ICLT), Support for the Implementation of National Biosafety Frameworks for Lesotho (NBF) implemented.
NT21: By 2030, financial and other resources have been mobilized to facilitate effective implementation of the new NBSAP	1. Resource Mobilisation Strategy developed and Implemented 2. Financial resources have mobilised in different ministries and departments, as well as from development partners and other donors.

3.1 Gap analysis of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) II

The NBSAP II document was subjected to a gap analysis to determine its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (**Table 3**). This was meant to determine strategic performance of the document since specific baseline, gaps and challenges were summarised in Section 2 covering the baseline and situation analysis.

Table 3. Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats on implementation of NBSAP II

Strength:	**Weakness:**
• Availability of political will manifested in the willingness and approval of Lesotho to become a party to several MEAs and comply with set obligations • Establishment and presence of institutions responsible for biodiversity conservation, environmental management, climate change and gender mainstreaming. • Existence of several coordination committees e.g. Commission on Preservation Natural Resources, National Climate Change Coordinating Committee, Man and Biosphere Committee, Small Grants Programme National Steering Committee Waste Management Committees • Preparation and availability of the NSDP II which has mainstreamed environment, climate change and gender considerations • Preparation and availability of national strategic documents guiding and reporting on implementation of the different MEAs (e.g. NBSAP II, National Communications and National Biodiversity Reports). • Availability of unique biodiversity with high species endemism, for instance, Maluti minnow and Sehlabathebe lily are only found in Lesotho	• Frequent and repeated prorogation of parliament hindering passing of and gazettement of Bills into laws • Inadequate and obsolete regulatory and policy frameworks e.g. some laws are outdated, e.g. National Parks Act 1975 and Historical Monuments, Relics, Fauna and Flora, 1967. No ABS law in the country • Key legislation is still in Bill form, for example, Biodiversity Resource Management Bill 2025, Biosafety Bill 2025 Range Resource Management Bill 2025 Fisheries and Aquaculture Bill 2025. • Over-lapping and conflicting mandates which may lead to uncoordinated and duplication of efforts • Limited capacity to adapt to impacts of climate change • Negative impacts of developmental activities on ecosystems • Reluctance of agencies to share relevant data, thereby compromising adequate planning, monitoring, reporting and formulation of management tools • Limited capacity pertaining to technical skills, including proposals or concept papers writing skills, potentially hinders the award of financial assistance under the MEAs • Weak and limited participation of private sector in environmental, conservation and climate change issues. • Limited awareness on environment, climate change and gender issues
Opportunities:	**Threats:**
• As an LDC, Lesotho is presented with more funding opportunities than other countries in the Developing or Developed category • Several funding opportunities from donors such as GEF and GCF, as well as development partners	• Rugged terrain and fragile ecosystems predisposing the land to soil erosion and degradation • Climate change impacts being faced by Lesotho pose a risk to biodiversity, water and land resources, as well as key ecosystems such as wetlands

• Participation of Lesotho in global, regional and continental meetings (e.g. CoPs).	

3.2. Key implementation challenges and lessons learnt

Below is an overview of general challenges of implementing NBSAP II

- Since the NBSAP II document and its four Implementation Plans were only validated recently (in 2025), and adopted as an official document, its implementation has not been done in a structured manner that tracks progress against the set indicators. This means progress on implementation of the NBSAP II is haphazard.
- There was no monitoring plan in place which had been prepared to assess and report on progress for implementation of the NBSAP II.
- Requisite administrative, policies and legislative frameworks recommended in NBSAP II were never developed and /or approved e.g. data bases, systems (LMO Detection monitoring system), strategies (National Zoological and Botanical Gardens Strategies not yet in place), legislation (Biodiversity Resources Management Bill not yet an Act of law).

3.3 Key implementation achievements

Despite delays to validate and adopt NBSAP II into an official policy document, there were some notable achievements in its implementation period. Some of these achievements are highlighted below:

- Establishment of the Preservation Commission as prescribed for in the Historical Monuments, Relics, Fauna and Flora Act 1967.
- The passing of legislation such as Plastic Levy Regulation 2022 and Environment Fund Regulations 2022.
- Implementation and institutionalization of the national ICM programme by ReNoka across sectoral plans and programmes. The delineation of the sub-catchments affords Lesotho a chance to conserve its biodiversity and water resources, as well as critical ecosystems (e.g. wetlands).
- Undertaking of a lot of awareness and outreach activities on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use by relevant line ministries, NGOs and Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) e.g. Grazing Associations and Herders Associations.
- Reviewing of EIA documents and undertaking monitoring and auditing on projects that have been given clearance certificates.
- Development and implementation of management plans for protected areas (PAs) and regulation of developments around PAs. Two protected areas (BNR and TNP) have also been developed into a Biosphere Reserve (known as Matšeng Biosphere Reserve)
- Undertaking of rangeland and wetland rehabilitation activities in various parts of the country (e.g. upper Khubelu River Catchment) to improve fodder production.
- Construction of water harvesting structures to improve water supply.

- Development and implementation of energy-efficient technologies (stoves, cookers and lights).
- Development and implementation of Aquaculture Regulatory Framework (by LHDA). Moreover, a distribution survey has been undertaken for Maloti Minnow (*Pseudobarbus quathlambae* (*Thoboshoana*)– an endemic and critically endangered fish).
- Implementation of a captive breeding programme for Bearded Vulture to increase its population.
- Development of Healthcare Waste Management policy, strategy and regulations by the Ministry of Health to protect public health and the environment.
- Invasive Alien Species (IAS) management plan developed by MDTP to control IAS in the MDTP conservation area. SNP also has an IAS management plan. Other protected areas also undertake yearly IAS control measures (e.g. high-density grazing management system and manual removal of IAS).
- National Climate Change Policy 2017-2027 has been developed. Moreover, climate risk considerations have been mainstreamed into the land rehabilitation programme.
- Implementation of a National Biosafety Framework for regulation of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).
- Development of a toolkit for sustainable land management (which include range resources management techniques).

PART II: NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

4.0 NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN (NBSAP) III

4.1 Vision

By 2050, Lesotho's biodiversity is conserved, restored, and sustainably used, supporting resilient ecosystems and improved livelihoods, with all Basotho living in harmony with nature for the benefit of present and future generations.

4.2 Mission

By 2030, to provide a coordinated national framework for the conservation, sustainable use, and equitable sharing of benefits from biodiversity through effective implementation, stakeholder engagement, and strengthened institutional capacity, in support of Lesotho's development priorities.

4.3 Guiding principles

Implementation of NBSAP III will be guided by the following principles:

- **Intrinsic value of biodiversity**

The value of biodiversity is central to human life through agriculture, medicine, scientific research, cultural practices, tourism, and other socio-economic developments.

- **Sustainable utilization**

Biodiversity conservation must be guarded through national laws, policies, and strategies that ensure its sustainable utilization.

- **Fair and equitable sharing**

Benefits arising from the use of genetic resources are shared fairly and equitably among citizens of Lesotho.

- **Utilisation of traditional knowledge and approaches on conservation and sustainability**

Traditional knowledge should be invoked to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

- **Integration into sectoral planning**

The goals and objectives of biodiversity conservation should be integrated into sectoral planning at national and local levels. Biodiversity conservation should become an integral part of long-term national and local development plans.

- **Participation and Inclusion**

Participation of members of the public in biodiversity conservation activities is central to its sustenance.

4.4 National biodiversity goals and targets

The KM-GBF prescribes four biodiversity goals and 23 global biodiversity targets which Lesotho should adopt to comply with its obligations under the UNCBD and its Protocols. These goals and targets are outlined in **Table 4** below.

Table 4. Lesotho's national biodiversity goals and their description

Biodiversity goal	Description
Goal A: Protect and restore	The integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, or restored, substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050; Human induced extinction of known threatened species is halted, and, by 2050, the extinction rate and risk of all species are reduced tenfold and the abundance of native wild species is increased to healthy and resilient levels; The genetic diversity within populations of wild and domesticated species, is maintained, safeguarding their adaptive potential.
Goal B: Prosper with Nature	Biodiversity is sustainably used and managed and nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, are valued, maintained and enhanced, with those currently in decline being restored, supporting the achievement of sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations by 2050.
Goal C: Share benefits fairly	The monetary and non-monetary benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources, and of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, as applicable, are shared fairly and equitably, including, as appropriate with indigenous peoples and local communities, and substantially increased by 2050, while ensuring traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources is appropriately protected, thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in accordance with internationally agreed access and benefit-sharing instruments.
Goal D: Invest and collaborate	Adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, and access to and transfer of technology to fully implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework are secured and equitably accessible to all and progressively closing the biodiversity finance gap of $27million per year,

Of the 23 global targets under the KM-GBF, Lesotho adopted 19 relevant ones and contextualised them into national circumstances as shown in **Table 5**. These targets have been used to develop a Biodiversity Action Plan outlined in **Section 5** below.

Table 5. Lesotho's national biodiversity targets, their description and overall indicators

National Target	Description	Overall Indicators
Target 1: Sustainable production and consumption of biological resources	By 2030, public institutions, the private sector, and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits	1. Number of National policies that incorporates biodiversity trade, sustainable watershed index 2. Proportion of legal and illegal wildlife trade consisting of species threatened with extinction
Target 2: Restore degraded ecosystems	By 2030, 30% of degraded terrestrial ecosystems, especially wetlands and rangelands restored	1. Area under restoration 2. Coverage of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures 3. Red List of Ecosystems
Target 3: Sustainable management of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	By 2030, at least 30% of areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity	1. Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture 2. Progress towards sustainable forest management 3. Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk of extinction
Target 4: Management of alien invasive species (AIS)	By 2030, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment in Lesotho	1. Rate of invasive alien species spread 2. Rate of invasive species impact and rate of impact 1. Number of invasive alien species introduction events
Target 5: Minimizing the impacts of climate change and building resilience of biodiversity through ecosystem-based approaches	By 2030, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on vulnerable ecosystems (e.g. mountain ecosystems and wetlands) impacted by climate change and environmental degradation reduced by 20% so as to maintain their integrity and functioning	2. Total climate regulation services provided by ecosystems and by ecosystem type (System of Environmental Economic Accounts)

Target 6: Reduction of pollution to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity	By 2030, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem functioning and biodiversity.	1. Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flow safely treated 2. Trends in the amount of litter, including microplastics 3. Floating plastic debris density (by micro and macro plastics) 4. Fertilizer use
Target 7: Effective management of important terrestrial ecosystems	By 2030, at least 17% of terrestrial ecosystems that are of particular importance for biodiversity conserved through ecosystem-based approaches and integrated into wider landscape.	1. Hectarage of UNESCO designated sites (Natural and mixed heritage sites and Biosphere Reserve) 2. Coverage of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures 3. Red List of Ecosystems
Target 8: Management of species extinction and protection of genetic diversity.	By 2030, at least 20% of known threatened species have been prevented from extinction, their conservation status improved and sustained, and management of human-wildlife conflict improved.	1. Percentage of threatened species that are improving in status according to the Red List Component indicator 2. Conservation status of species listed in the CITES Appendices has stabilized or improved
Target 9: Strengthening biosafety and distribution of biotechnology benefits.	By 2030, protection measures are in place for the sound management of living modified organisms that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as well as pose risks to human health.	1. Measures and means for detection and identification of biotechnology products 2. Mechanisms to facilitate the sharing of and access to information on potential adverse impacts of biotechnology on biodiversity and human health
Target 10: Ensuring participation and integration of biodiversity in decision-making at every level	By 2030, Lesotho has developed, and commenced implementing an effective participatory and updated NBSAP and has adopted it as a policy instrument across all sectors.	1. Number of national targets implemented for integrating biodiversity values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts at all levels, ensuring that biodiversity values are

		mainstreamed across all sectors and integrated into assessments of environmental impacts
Target 11: Enhancing carbon stocks through ecosystem resilience.	By 2030, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks is enhanced, through conservation and restoration of at least 30% of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and combating desertification.	1. Number of spatial management plans including grazing, fire, and protected areas management plans
Target 12: Strengthening legal frameworks and institutional arrangements for implementation of Nagoya Protocol	By 2030, appropriate legislation and policy instruments are in place for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources, Traditional knowledge and Digital Sequence Information	1. Number of National policies that incorporate biodiversity trade 2. Total number of permits, or their equivalent, granted for access to genetic resources
Target 13: Reform incentives and subsidies to support biodiversity	By 2030, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and enhance positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and implemented	1. Value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity, that are redirected, repurposed or eliminated
Target 14: Mobilization of financial resources for biodiversity	By 2030, financial and other resources have been mobilized to facilitate effective implementation of the NBSAP	1. Amount of funding provided through the Global Environment Facility and allocated to the biodiversity focal area 2. Amount and composition of biodiversity-related finance reported
Target 15: Capacity-building, technology transfer, and scientific and technical	By 2030, Science-based knowledge, and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss	1. Extent to which (a) national citizenship education and (b) education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human

cooperation on biodiversity	improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied	rights, are mainstreamed at all levels in: (i) national education policies, (ii) curricula, (iii) teacher education and (iv) student assessments
Target 16: Integration of biodiversity into strategic development plans	By 2030, biodiversity values have been integrated into all strategic development plans at national, Sectoral, Departmental, and Local levels	1. Number of operational legislative, administrative or policy frameworks which relate to Target 13 2. Number of legal instruments to regulate the use and trade of wild species, and respecting customary sustainable use in local communities
Target 17: Awareness on biodiversity values and ecosystem services	By 2030, 70% of the population in Lesotho is aware of the values of biodiversity and ecosystem services, involved in decision-making and willingly participates in biodiversity conservation activities and projects	1. Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure 2. Extent to which (a) global citizenship education and (b) education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights, are mainstreamed at all levels in: (i) national education policies, (ii) curricula, (iii) teacher education and (iv) student assessments
Target 18: Mobilize USD4 million from local sources and USD25 million from international sources to support biodiversity programmes	By 2030, Lesotho shall progressively increase the level of financial resources from all sources, in an effective, timely and easily accessible manner, including domestic, international, public and private resources, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention and national policies	1. Amount of funding provided through the Global Environment Facility and allocated to the biodiversity focal area 2. Amount and composition of biodiversity-related finance reported

	to implement national biodiversity strategy and action plan	
Target 19: Ensure gender equality and a gender-responsive approach for biodiversity action	By 2030, Lesotho shall ensure gender equality in the implementation of the NBSAP through gender responsive approach where all have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to biodiversity programmes, particularly women, girls and marginalised groups	1. Land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of local communities 2. Policies to manage the use of wild species sustainably, providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, and to protect and encourage customary sustainable use by local communities

4.5 National Biodiversity Action Plan

This section outlines a comprehensive action plan for biodiversity conservation in Lesotho, incorporating goals and targets aligned to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF). The framework's targets have been adapted to reflect national priorities and context, while its overarching goals have been formally adopted. Key strategic initiatives and actions have been identified to advance biodiversity conservation, achieve the objectives of the KM-GBF, and fulfil Lesotho's commitments under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) and its associated Protocols. These initiatives and actions are further organized into a logical framework that specifies indicators, assigns institutional responsibilities, establishes implementation timeframes, and allocates budgetary resources **(amounting to USD 162 806 919**). The detailed breakdown is presented in **Table 6** below.

Table 6. Logical framework for an action plan on biodiversity conservation

GOAL A: PROTECT AND RESTORE						
National Target 7: By 2030 at least 17% of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems that are of particularly importance for biodiversity conserved through ecosystem- based approaches and integrated into wider landscape						
Strategic Initiative 7.1 Strengthen management of protected areas						
Actions	**Output/Progress indicators**	**Lead institution (s)**	**Supporting institutions**	**Indicative resource requirements**	**Time frame [Fiscal years]**	**Costing and source of funds (USD)**
i. Assess biodiversity status in formally protected areas	State of biodiversity in 5 Protected Areas (Tšehlanyane National Park, Bokong Nature Reserve, Sehlabathebe National Park, Letša-la-Letsie and Liphofung Cave) determined Lists of threatened species in protected areas prepared Threats to biodiversity identified	MEF; Academia	MAFSN; MLGHAP; MNR; MFDP; CBOs	Technical, financial and human resources	2028/30	823 530 GoL and donor funding
ii. Develop/review and implement Management Plans for protected areas (PAs)	Management Plans for state-owned protected areas updated and implemented Fire and other threats sustainably managed	MEF	MAFSN; MLGHAP; MNR; MFDP; CBOs	Technical, financial and human resources	2028/30	352 941 GoL and donor funding
iii. Capacitate PA staff on effective PA management	PA staff equipped on fire-fighting skills and effective core PA management Management of PAs improved Fire occurrences and other threats reduced Human-wild-life conflicts reduced	MEF; Academia	MAFSN; MEF; MLGHAP; MNR; MFDP; CBOs	Technical, financial and human resources	2027/30	176 470 GoL and donor funding

iv. Capacitate PA Co-Management Structures (Local Government structures, including the Community Conservation Forums) in the management of protected areas	Management of PAs improved Fire occurrences and other threats reduced Human-wild-life conflicts reduced Skills on Occupational Health and Safety acquired Tour guiding skills acquired	MEF; MLGHAP	MAFSN; MEF; MNR; MFDP; Academia; CBOs; CSOs; CCFs	Technical, financial and human resources	2027/30	470 590 GoL and donor funding
v. Install and operationalise biodiversity planning and monitoring systems in protected areas	Fire station monitoring system installed operational Monitoring and evaluation plans prepared and operational Environmental Surveillance Equipment installed	MEF	MAFSN; MEF; MLGHAP; MFDP; Academia; CSO; CCFs	Technical, financial and human resources	2028/30	1 294 118 GoL and donor funding
vi. Implement MDTP Spatial Assessment of Biodiversity Priorities Technical Report	Feasibility studies and EIA conducted New protected areas identified and gazetted Management Plans developed	MEF	MAFSN; MLGHAP; MFDP; Academia; CSO; CCFs MNR, LHDA	Technical, financial and human resources	2027/30	1 176 470 GoL and donor funding
Strategic Initiative 7.2: Improve conservation potential and socio-economic contribution of protected areas						
i. Upgrade the infrastructure in protected areas	Financial resources mobilized Hiking trails and viewpoints maintained and upgraded Feasibility studies and EIA conducted Buildings within PAs maintained and upgraded	MEF	MAFSN; MLGHAP; MFDP; MNR, Academia; CSOs; CCFs LHDA; Parastatals	Technical, financial and human resources	2028/30	2 058 823 GoL and donor funding

ii. Re-introduction plan for locally extinct wildlife	Wildlife species population increased	MEF	MAFSN; MLGHAP; MFDP; MNR, Academia; CSO; CCFs LHDA	Technical, financial and human resources	2028/30	3 323 530 GoL and donor funding
iii. Facilitate the initiation of biodiversity stewardship programmes (e.g. in privately-owned and military land)	Privately-owned PAs established Biodiversity and ecosystems in military areas sustainably managed	MEF; LDF	MLGHAP; MNR; MAFSN; LHDA	Technical, financial and human resources	2028/30	470 588 GoL and donor funding
Strategic Initiative 7.3: Establish collaboration with law enforcement institutions in environmental protection and biodiversity conservation initiatives						
i. Establish and enhance law enforcement programmes in environmental and biodiversity conservation	MoUs developed and implemented Joint plans to combat biodiversity crime developed and implemented National database on wildlife crimes developed and utilised Reporting system on wildlife crime developed and operational	LMPS	MEF; MDNS; MLGHAP; MAFSN; MNR	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	1 176 470 GoL and donor funding
ii. Enhance national security and intelligence on protected areas and other biodiversity of national importance	National threats against protected areas reduced Human-wildlife conflicts incidences reduced Infrastructure availed and utilised	LDF; NSS	MEF; MLGHAP; MAFSN MDNS; MNR; MICSTI	Technical, financial and human resources	2028/30	882 353 GoL funding
Strategic Initiative 7.4: Strengthen management of biodiversity outside of formally protected areas						
i. Identify, document and pilot contemporary and traditional approaches to biodiversity conservation	Indigenous knowledge systems (Traditional Knowledge) profiled *In-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation measures documented (case studies)	MEF	MAFSN; MNR; MFDP; MLGHAP MTISB; MGYSD; CSOs; Private Sector; RSL; CBOs; media; LHDA, ReNoka;	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/2030	1 000 000 GoL and donor funding

	Documentation findings implemented and monitored		Parastatals; Youth and Women-led Groups; Human Rights Groups			
ii. Undertake national biodiversity and environmental assessments to determine status and socio-economic contribution of ecosystems	State of Environment assessments undertaken State of water assessments undertaken IUCN Red Data Listing conducted Non-detriment findings conducted	MEF; MNR	MAFS MLGHAP N; MFDP; MTISB; MGYSD; CSOs; Private Sector; ReNoka; LHDA, CBOs	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	2 176 450 GoL and donor funding
iii. Develop and implement Environmental Management Plans for priority ecosystems (wetlands, rangelands, aquatic systems)	Management and rehabilitation plans for wetlands and aquatic systems developed and implemented Management and rehabilitation plans for rangelands developed and implemented (e.g. grazing plans)	MEF; LHDA	MAFSN; MNR; MFDP; MLGHAP MTISB; MGYSD; CSOs; Private Sector; RSL; CBOs, Media; ReNoka	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	194 118 GoL and donor funding
iv. Establish and manage community-based conservation areas (e.g. *Maboella*, community eco-parks)	Community Conservation areas identified and some gazetted (e.g. eco-parks) Institutional structures set-up Bylaws developed Management plans prepared and implemented	MEF	MAFSN; MLGHAP; MFDP; MNR, Academia; CSO; CCFs LHDA	Technical, financial and human resources	2027/30	1 588 235 GoL and donor funding
v. Establish and operationalise community-based	Communities sensitised and mobilised	MEF; MLGHAP	MAFSN; MNR; MFDP; MTISB; MGYSD; CSOs;	2026/2030	Technical, financial and	992 352

organisations on environmental management and biodiversity conservation	Constitutions developed and implemented Participation and inclusion of marginalised gender groups (e.g. youth, women and people living with disabilities) strengthened CBOs legally registered Work programmes developed and operationalised Study tours and field excursions undertaken		Private Sector; RSL; CBOs, Media; ReNoka,		human resources	
Total budget- Target 7						**18 157 038**
National Target 8: By 2030, at least 20% of known threatened species have been prevented from extinction, their conservation status improved and sustained, and management of human-wildlife conflict improved						
Strategic Initiative 8.1: Enhance measures to mitigate major threats to biodiversity						
Actions	**Output/Progress indicators**	**Lead institution (s)**	**Supporting institutions**	**Indicative resource requirements**	**Time frame [Fiscal years]**	**Costing and source of funds (USD)**
i. Develop and implement Biodiversity Management Plans for priority and threatened species	Management plans for priority species developed and/or updated (*Aloe polyphylla, Pelargonium sidoides, Merxmuellera spp., Bulbine narcissifolia, Dicoma anomala, Hypoxis hemerocallidea,* Maloti millow, Bearded vulture)	MEF; LHDA	MAFSN; MNR; MFDP; MLGHAP MTISB; MGYSD; CSOs; Private Sector; RSL; CBOs; media; LHDA, ReNoka; Parastatals; Youth and Women-led Groups; Human Rights Groups	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	200 300 GoL and donor funding

ii. Establish botanical gardens and gene banks for *ex-situ* conservation	National Botanical Garden and Gene Bank Strategy developed Feasibility studies and EIA undertaken Sites identified and acquired Indigenous species (including threatened species) collected and introduced Propagation programmes established Botanical gardens at national, district and local levels established and operational	MEF; LHDA	MAFSN; MNR; MFDP; MLGHAP MTISB; MGYSD; CSOs; Private Sector; RSL; CBOs; media; LHDA, ReNoka; Parastatals; Youth and Women-led Groups; Human Rights Groups	Technical, financial and human resources	2027/30	2 764 705 GoL and donor funding
iii. Establish Zoological Gardens	National Zoological Garden Strategy developed Expand and upgrade Qacha's Nek Snake Park Feasibility studies and EIA undertaken Sites identified and acquired Wild animals translocated and re-introduced	MEF & MLGHAP	MAFSN; MNR; MFDP; MLGHAP MTISB; MGYSD; CSOs; Private Sector; RSL; CBOs; media; LHDA, ReNoka; Parastatals; Youth and Women-led Groups; Human Rights Groups	Technical, financial and human resources	2028/30	3 529 410 GoL and donor funding

	Breeding programmes initiated and managed					
iv. Assess performance of biodiversity conservation initiatives	M&E regularly conducted Implementation progress and lessons learned documented	MFDP; MEF	MAFSN; MNR; MFDP; MTISB; MGYSD; CSOs; Private Sector; RSL; CBOs; media	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	882 350 GoL and donor funding
v. Develop and update policies and legislation on biodiversity and environmental protection	Policies developed and implemented Legislation developed and enacted (e.g. climate change law)	MEF; MLJ	MAFSN; MLGHAP; MNR; MFDP; MGYSD; CSOs; Private Sector; CBOs; media	Technical, financial and human resources	2028/30	411 765 GoL and donor funding
vi. Review and update priority policies and strategies	Environment Policy, Range Management Policy, Climate Change Policy, Water and Sanitation Policy 2007, IWIRM Strategy, Longterm Water and Sanitation Strategy 2016	MEF; MNR	MAFSN; MLGHAP; MNR; MFDP; MGYSD; ReNoka; CSOs; Private Sector; CBOs; media	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	300 765 GoL funding GoL and donor funding
vii. Review and/or enact Priority environmental legislation and disseminate key compliance requirements	Biodiversity, CITES, Biosafety, Soil and Water Conservation, Range management, Water Resources Management and Water Services Bills passed in parliament Environment Act reviewed Implementation strategies developed	MEF; MLJ	MAFSN; MLGHAP; MNR; MFDP; MGYSD; CSOs; Private Sector; CBOs; media; Youth and Women-led groups, Human Rights Groups; LHDA; Parastatals	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/28	352 940 GoL and donor funding
Total Budget – Target 8						**8 442 235**
National Target 16: By 2030, biodiversity values have been integrated into all strategic development plans at national, Sectoral, Departmental, and Local levels						
Strategic Initiative 16.1: Mainstream biodiversity conservation into National, District and Local Development Plans						

Actions	Output/Progress indicators	Lead institution (s)	Supporting institutions	Indicative resource requirements	Time frame [Fiscal years]	Costing and source of funds (USD)
i. Implement biodiversity priorities contained in the NSDP 2 Extended	Implementation plans developed M&E regularly conducted	MEF; MFDP	MAFSN; MLGHAP; MNR; CSOs; youth and women-led groups; Private Sector, Academia; Media	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/28	352 942 GoL and donor funding
ii. Integrate biodiversity considerations into sectoral plans and programmes	Sectoral and cross sectoral plans and programmes developed M&E plans developed and implemented M&E systems developed and monitored Data management protocols developed and implemented	MEF	MAFSN; MLGHAP; MNR; MFDP; CSOs; Private Sector; CBOs	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	1 176 470 GoL and donor funding
iii. Develop and implement Integrated Land Use Plans	Institutions capacitated Public and local authorities sensitised and mobilised Spatial and zoning plans and maps produced Guidelines for land-use planning integration developed Relocation, Resettlement and Compensation Plan prepared and implemented	MLGHAP; MPWT	MEF; MAFSN; MFDP; MTISB; MGYSD; CSOs; Academia; Private Sector; ReNoka; LHDA, LNDC; CBOs; Youth and Women-led Groups; Human Rights Groups	Technical, financial and human resources	2027/30	2 058 825 GoL and donor funding

iv. Review and update Decentralisation Policy to mainstream biodiversity issues	Situation analysis conducted Mainstreaming guidelines developed Updated Decentralisation Policy with biodiversity mainstreaming produced	MLGHAP	MAFSN; MEF; MNR; MFDP; MGYSD; CSOs; CBOs; Private Sector; Development partners	Technical, financial and human resources	2027/28	100 500 GoL funding
v. Mainstream biodiversity conservation issues into development plans at community and district levels	Mainstreaming guidelines developed Development Plans developed	MLGHAP MEF	MAFSN; MNR; MFDP; CSOs; Private Sector; MGYSD; Media	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/27	176 479 GoL funding
vi. Develop and implement community-based projects on biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods	Compendium of Project Concepts and Proposals developed Resource mobilisation undertaken Implementation progress and lessons learned documented M&E conducted	MEF; MLGHAP	MAFSN; MNR; MFDP; MTISB; MGYSD; CSOs; Private Sector; RSL; Development partners	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	3 000 000 GoL and donor funding
Total Budget – Target 16						**6 865 216**
National Target 4: By 2030, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment in Lesotho						
Strategic Initiative 4.1: Develop and implement mechanisms for controlling the introduction of invasive alien species and eliminate/manage those that already exist						
Actions	**Output/Progress indicators**	**Lead institution (s)**	**Supporting institutions**	**Indicative resource requirements**	**Time frame [Fiscal years]**	**Costing and source of funds (USD)**

i. Assess the status, distribution and impacts of invasive alien species (IAS)	List and distribution of IAS updated Database on IAS developed Monitoring and surveillance carried out	MEF; MAFSN	MLGHAP; MNR; MTISB; MFDP; MGYSD; Academia; CSOs; Private Sector; CBOs; media; Youth and women-led groups, Human Rights Groups; LHDA; Parastatals	Technical, financial and human resources	2028/30	941 180 GoL and donor funding
ii. Conduct studies on socio- economic value of selected IAS and manage their commercialisation	Economic potential of Rosehip and other important IAS investigated Market surveys undertaken Business concepts prepared Valuable products developed and commercialised	MEF; MTISB Academia	MAFSN; MLGHAP; MNR; MFDP; MGYSD; CSOs; Private Sector; CBOs; media; Youth and women-led groups, Human Rights Groups; LHDA; Parastatals	Technical, financial and human resources	2028/30	1 588 230 GoL and donor funding
iii. Develop legislation and administrative tools on IAS	Weed Eradication Act (1969) reviewed and updated IAS Management Strategy developed Monitoring and evaluation plan for managing IAS	MEF; MAFSN	MLGHAP; MNR; MFDP; MGYSD; Private Sector; CBOs; CSOs; media; Youth and women-led groups, Human Rights Groups; LHDA; Parastatals	Technical, financial and human resources	2029/30	352 940 GoL and donor funding
iv. Capacitate relevant stakeholders on IAS control including Phytosanitary requirements and measures	Capacity building strategy updated and finalised Port-health and other border control officers trained	MAFSN; RSL; MEF	MLGHAP; MNR; MFDP; MGYSD; MTISB; CSOs; Private Sector; CBOs; media; Youth and women-led groups, Human Rights	Technical, financial and human resources	2027/30	882 355 GoL and donor funding

	Information, education and communication (IEC) materials produced and disseminated		Groups; LHDA; Parastatals			
v. Undertake awareness raising and sensitisation campaigns on IAS	Communication strategy developed and implemented Awareness raising campaigns conducted for key stakeholders (e.g. farmers, herders and local authors) Key messages on IAS prepared Media programmes developed and aired	MAFSN; MEF; Media	MLGHAP; MNR; MFDP; MGYSD; MTISB; Private Sector; CBOs; CSOs; media; Youth and women-led groups, Human Rights Groups; LHDA; Parastatals	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	735 295 GoL and donor funding
vi. Establish quarantine facilities at ports of entry	Quarantine facilities constructed and operational Records of IAS quarantined, maintained and documented Prohibited IAS disposed off	MAFSN; MEF	MLGHAP; MNR; MFDP; MGYSD; MTISB; CSOs; Private Sector; CBOs; media; Parastatals	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	2 058 825 GoL and donor funding
Total budget – Target 4						**6 558 825**
National Target 13: By 2030, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and enhance positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and implemented						
Strategic Initiative 13.1: Minimize and eliminate incentives that are harmful to biodiversity and enhance those that are positive to biodiversity sustainability						
Actions	**Output/Progress indicators**	**Lead institution (s)**	**Supporting institutions**	**Indicative resource requirements**	**Time frame [Fiscal years]**	**Costing and source of funds (USD)**
i. Develop a national database of positive and negative	Positive and negative incentives identified and profiled	MFDP (BoS)	MEF; MTISB; MAFSN	Technical, Financial and human resource	2027/28	400 942 GoL and donor funding

incentives in biodiversity conservation	Database developed and operationalised Data sharing protocols developed and implemented					
ii. Design interventions to manage (e.g. mitigate, reform or minimise) harmful incentives to biodiversity and enhance positive ones	Policy review carried out Relevant regulatory and policy interventions implemented and monitored (e.g. Plastic Levy) Awareness raising on negative incentives and carried out Use of harmful subsidies reduced	MEF; MAFSN	MTISB; LNDC; MFDP; RSL	Technical, financial and human resources	2027/30	58 825 GoL funding
Total budget -Target 13						**459 767**
National Target 1: By 2030, public institutions, the private sector, and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits						
Strategic Initiative 1.1: Improve the management and use of natural resources in order to safeguard them for future generations						
Actions	**Output/Progress indicators**	**Lead institution (s)**	**Supporting institutions**	**Indicative resource requirements**	**Time frame [Fiscal years]**	**Costing and source of funds (USD)**
i. Review the National Environmental Impact Assessment process to improve its efficiency and effectiveness	Draft EIA Regulations Enacted EIA guidelines reviewed and updated Education and outreach programmes conducted	MEF	MAFSN; MNR; MoE; MFDP; MLGHAP; MTISB; MGYSD; MLJ; MoET; Youth and Women-led Groups; Human Rights Groups; Media; CBOs; CSOs	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	176 480 GoL funding
Total budget – Target 1						**176 480**
National Target 3: By 2030, at least 30% of areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity						

Strategic Initiative 3.1: Promote sound rangeland and sustainable forest management practices to minimize the negative impacts of agricultural production on biodiversity and ecosystem functioning						
Actions	**Output/Progress indicators**	**Lead institution (s)**	**Supporting institutions**	**Indicative resource requirements**	**Time frame [Fiscal years]**	**Costing and source of funds (USD)**
i. Capacitate stakeholders in agriculture, aquaculture and forestry on sustainable management practices	Stakeholders trained on sustainable management practices Production systems sustainably managed	MAFSN; LHDA	MLGHAP; MEF; MGYSD; MLJ; MoET; Academia; LENAFU, Wool & Mohair Growers Association; Youth and Women-led Groups; Human Rights Groups; Media; CBOs	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	1 588 240 GoL and donor funding
ii. Promote climate smart agriculture (CSA), conservation agriculture (CA) and other sustainable practices	CSA and CA practices institutionalised and adopted Farmers engaged in CSA and CA practices increased Media programmes on CSA and CA formulated and aired	MAFSN; Media	MLGHAP; MEF; MGYSD; MLJ; MoET; Academia; LENAFU, Wool & Mohair Growers Association; Youth and Women-led Groups; Human Rights Groups; Media; CBOs	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	1 765 710 GoL and donor funding
iii. Strengthen management of community forestry programme	Community forestry programmes established Community Forestry Committees established/ resuscitated and operational Forestry management plans developed	MAFSN	MLGHAP; MEF; MGYSD; LENAFU; Youth and Women-led Groups; Human Rights Groups; Media; CBOs; CSOs	Technical, financial and human resources	2027/30	588 235 GoL and donor funding

iv. Develop and implement Policy and legislation on Aquaculture Industry	Aquaculture Policies developed and operationalised Aquaculture legislation drafted and enacted Blue Economy Strategy finalised and approved	MAFSN	MLGHAP; MEF; MGYSD; MLJ; CSOs; Media; CBOs	Technical, financial and human resources	2027/29	705 890 GoL and donor funding
Strategic Initiative 3.2: Enhance the genetic diversity of livestock and crop species through effective in-situ and ex-situ conservation measures and the safe use of biotechnology. to improve food security and climate resilience of agriculture						
i. Develop applicable legislation on conservation of indigenous livestock and crop breeds and varieties	Legislation in place to protect indigenous livestock and crop breeds and varieties	MAFSN	MEF; MLGHAP; MFDP; MGYSD; LENAFU; Youth and Women-led Groups; Human Rights Groups; Media; CBOs; CSOs	Technical, financial and human resources	2027/28	215 000 GoL and donor funding
ii. Improve coordination, management and conservation of indigenous crops and livestock breeds	A plan to conserve indigenous crops and livestock breeds developed and operationalised Database of indigenous crops and livestock breeds established Gene testing and sequencing of indigenous crops and livestock breeds undertaken Local names for indigenous crops and livestock breeds profiled and documented Coordination mechanisms established/improved	MAFSN	MLGHAP; MEF; MFDP; MGYSD; LENAFU; Youth and Women-led Groups; CBOs; CSOs	Technical, financial and human resources	2027/2029	688 235 GoL and donor funding

iii. Establish and improve management of gene banks and community seed banks nationwide	Gene banks and community seed banks established	MAFSN	MLGHAP; MEF; MGYSD; CSOs; LENAFU; Youth and Women-led Groups; CBOs	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/2030	2 264 600 GoL and donor funding
Total budget – Target 3						**7 815 910**
National Target 6: By 2030, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem functioning and biodiversity						
Strategic Initiative 6.1: Strengthen measures to effectively manage and monitor pollution and waste in different locations in the country to reduce their negative effects on the environment and human health						
Actions	**Output/Progress indicators**	**Lead institution (s)**	**Supporting institutions**	**Indicative resource requirements**	**Time frame [Fiscal years]**	**Costing and source of funds (USD)**
i. Identify and profile pollution hotspots	Location, type and sources of pollution determined Hotspots mapped Database developed and operational	MEF; MLGHAP	MAFSN; MNR; Youth and Women-led Groups; Human Rights Groups; Media; CBOs; CSOs	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	1 030 412 GoL and donor funding
ii. Establish waste management projects and programmes	Feasibility studies and EIAs undertaken Recycling centres constructed Waste sorted and recycled into economically important products Volumes of waste recycled Members of public involved in waste recycling businesses	MEF	MLGHAP; MAFSN; MTISB; MNR; CSOs; Youth and Women-led Groups; Human Rights Groups; Media; CBOs	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	2 941 180 GoL and donor funding
iii. National and community landfills	Feasibility studies and EIAs undertaken	MEF	MLGHAP; MAFSN; MTISB; MNR; CSOs; Youth and Women-led	Technical, financial and human resources	2027/30	6 500 110 GoL and donor funding

established and sustainably managed	Community landfills and dump sites identified and established Tšoeneng landfill sustainably managed Volumes of waste in landfills and dumpsites reduced Pollution hotspots reduced		Groups; Human Rights Groups; Media; CBOs			
iv. Sensitise local communities on sound waste management and pollution control measures	Pollution hotspots reduced M& E conducted Recyclers participating in waste management increased Pollution bylaws and protocols formulated and adopted	MEF	MLGHAP; MAFSN; MTISB; MNR; CSOs; Youth and Women-led Groups; Human Rights Groups; Media; CBOs	Technical, financial and human resources	2027/30	882 355 GoL and donor funding
v. Develop and implement Waste and Pollution Control Legislation and related tools	Standards adopted and operationalised (e.g. water quality standards, Effluent discharge standards) Hazardous Chemicals Management Bill enacted Waste management regulations drafted and enacted	MEF	MLGHAP; MAFSN; MTISB; MNR; CSOs; Youth and Women-led Groups; Human Rights Groups; Media; CBOs	Technical, financial and human resources	2027/30	705 890 GoL and donor funding
vi. Develop, review and update waste management strategies and plans	Integrated Solid Waste Management Strategy reviewed and updated	MEF	MLGHAP; MAFSN; MTISB; MNR; Youth and Women-led Groups; Human Rights Groups; Media; CBOs; CSOs	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/28	205 890 GoL and donor funding

Total budget- Target 6						**12 265 837**
National Target 5: By 2030, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on vulnerable ecosystems (e.g. mountain ecosystems and wetlands) impacted by climate change and environmental degradation reduced by 20% so as to maintain their integrity and functioning						
Strategic Initiative 5.1: Conduct a vulnerability assessment of priority ecosystems in the country and develop appropriate mitigation measures to enhance their resilience to climate change						
Actions	**Output/Progress indicators**	**Lead institution (s)**	**Supporting institutions**	**Indicative resource requirements**	**Time frame [Fiscal years]**	**Costing and source of funds (USD)**
i. Evaluate the impact of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystems	Baseline and trend analysis undertaken	MEF; Academia	MLGHAP; MAFSN; MNR; CSOs; Youth and Women-led Groups	Technical, financial and human resources	2027/28	135 295 GoL and donor funding
ii. Conduct vulnerability Assessments on ecosystems and biodiversity	Climate sensitive ecosystems identified, prioritised and mapped Vulnerability maps produced	MEF; MAFSN; Academia	MLGHAP; MNR; CSOs; Youth and Women-led Groups	Technical, financial and human resources	2028/30	270 590 GoL and donor funding
iii. Mainstream climate change issues in biodiversity sector	Mainstreaming guidelines developed Mitigation and adaptation plans formulated for biodiversity and climate change nexus developed	MEF	MLGHAP; MAFSN; MNR; MGYSD; CSOs; Private Sector; CBOs; media	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/28	352 942 GoL funding
Total budget – Target 5						**758 827**
SUBTOTAL GOAL A						**57 098 962**

GOAL B: PROSPER WITH NATURE
National Target 17: By 2030, 70% of the population in Lesotho is aware of the values of biodiversity and ecosystem services and willingly participates in biodiversity conservation activities and projects
Strategic Initiative 17.1: Raise public awareness on the value of biodiversity and promote its sustainable use countrywide.

Actions	Output/Progress indicators	Responsible institution	Supporting institutions	Indicative resource requirements	Time frame [Fiscal years]	Costing and source of funds (USD)
i. Review and update Communication Strategy	Strategy approved and implemented	MEF	MAFSN; MLGHAP; MNR; CSOs; MICSTI; UNESCO; MGYSD; Private Sector, Academia; Media	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	1 617 650 GoL and donor funding
ii. Assess understanding of biodiversity value and importance of its conservation among various groups (inclusive of marginalised groups)	Baseline information generated Participation and engagement of various groups strengthened	MEF	MAFSN; MLGHAP; MFDP; MGYSD; Youth and Women-led Groups; CBOs; CSOs Private Sector	Technical, human and financial resources	2026/27 Repeated mid-term in 2029/30	117 650 GoL and donor funds .
iii. Undertake awareness raising and sensitisation campaigns on biodiversity value and its conservation at all levels of society	Awareness raising campaigns conducted (e.g. road shows, public gatherings) Assortment of people reached Key messages on biodiversity conservation prepared	MEF	MOET; MLGHAP; MAFSN; MFDP; Private Sector; CSOs; Youth and women-led groups; MGYSD; MNR, MOET; ReNoka; Academia; Media; Development Partners	Technical, human and financial resources	2026/30	588 240 GoL and donor funds
iv. Integrate biodiversity education into national (formal) education curricula	Curricula with biodiversity mainstreaming developed at various levels Environmental clubs formed and operational	MOET; MEF	Academia; MNR; Civil Society (e.g. LANFE); LDTC	Technical, financial and human resources	2027/30	294 118 GoL and donor funding

v. Integrate biodiversity issues into non-formal education training programmes (e.g. security agencies, initiation schools)	Training programs developed Relevant institutions identified and involved	MEF	MOH; MLCHAP; MNR; MDNS; MOET (e.g. CHE; NCDC); Traditional Practitioners Associations, Initiation schools	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/28	88 240 GoL and donor funding
vi. Capacitate law enforcement agencies and the justice system on biodiversity issues	Database on environmental crimes established and maintained Environmental crime cases taken to court increased Personnel trained on biodiversity issues increased MoUs with law enforcement agencies developed and implemented	MEF; MLGHAP; MLJ	MNR, MAFSN; MPA; MLGHAP, MFDP, Academia, Civil Society, Media	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	800 000 GoL funding
Total budget – Target 17						**3 505 898**
National Target 9: By 2030, protection measures are in place for the sound management of living modified organisms that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as well as pose risks to human health.						
Strategic Initiative 9.1: Introduce measures to regulate the transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms in the country						
Actions	**Output/Progress indicators**	**Responsible institution**	**Supporting institutions**	**Indicative resource requirements**	**Time frame [Fiscal years]**	**Costing and source of funds (USD)**

i. Develop and Implement policies, strategies and plans on Biosafety issues	National Biosafety Policy reviewed and revised Biosafety legislation Enacted Biosafety Awareness Strategy reviewed and revised	MEF	MAFSN; MEF; MLGHAP	Technical, financial and human resources	2027/2028	394 117 GoL funding
ii. Establish an effective detection and monitoring system for LMOs	Capacity building for stakeholders undertaken Assessment of LMOs status undertaken National LMOs database established	MEF	MAFSN; MLGHAP; MNR; Academia	Technical, financial and human resources	2027/2028	1 647 058 GoL Funding
Total budget – Target 9						**2 041 175**

National Target 2: By 2030, 30% of degraded ecosystems, especially wetlands and rangelands restored

Strategic Initiative 2.1: Rehabilitate, restore and safeguard ecosystems that provide essential services to human well-being

Actions	Output/Progress indicators	Responsible institution	Supporting institutions	Indicative resource requirements	Time frame [Fiscal years]	Costing and source of funds (USD)
i. Assess the status of ecosystems degradation for rehabilitation and restoration purposes	Baseline Assessment Report produced Priority ecosystems providing essential services profiled and restored (e.g. rangelands, wetlands)	MEF	MAFSN; MLGHAP; MNR; ICM; ReNoka; CSO; CCFs LHDA	Technical, financial and human resources	2027/2029	1 058 823 GoL and donor funding

	Ecosystem condition and vulnerability maps produced					
ii. Develop and implement a national program for the rehabilitation and restoration of degraded ecosystems	Coverage of rehabilitated and restored ecosystems increased Regular monitoring and reporting performed	MEF	MAFSN; MLGHAP; MNR; Academia	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/2030	35 294 117 GoL and donor funding
iii. Strengthen management and sustainable use of rangelands	Grazing Associations established and/ resuscitated Grazing plans developed and operational Rangeland inventories undertaken Range condition and vulnerability maps produced State of rangelands report produced Bylaws developed and enacted	MLGHAP; MAFSN; MEF	MFDP; MNR, CSOs; LHDA; CCFs Parastatals; Youth and Women-led Groups; CBOs	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	1 647 058 GoL and donor funding
iv. Develop and implement Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) initiatives	PES in place and functioning	MLGHAP; MEF	MAFSN; MTISB; MFDP; MGYSD; CSO; CCFs; Private Sector; Youth and Women-led Groups; CBOs	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	11 764 705 GoL and donor funding

	Essential ecosystem goods and services identified and valuated Buyers and sellers identified and engagement facilitated Exchange agreements developed and operationalised Robust monitoring and reporting conducted					
v. Develop and implement community eco-tourism and sustainable livelihood programmes	Eco-tourism and Livelihood Plan prepared and operationalised Biotrade initiatives introduced and effectively managed Ecotourism and livelihood projects established and implemented	MEF	MAFSN; MGYSD; CSOs; CCFs; MLGHAP; MFDP; MTSAC; CBOs; Private sector; Youth and Women-led Groups	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	1 470 588 GoL and donor funding
Total budget – Target 2						**51 235 291**
National Target 11: By 2030, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks is enhanced, through conservation and restoration of at least 30% of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and combating desertification.						
Strategic Initiative 11.1: Develop and implement measures to mitigate the effects of climate change and enhance adaptation and combat desertification						
Actions	**Output/Progress indicators**	**Responsible institution**	**Supporting institutions**	**Indicative resource requirements**	**Time frame**	**Costing and source of funds (USD)**

					[Fiscal years]	
i. Assess carbon sequestration capacity of ecosystems	Applicable expertise secured Stakeholders' capacity on carbon sequestration enhanced Assessment report produced Ecosystem sequestration maps produced	MEF	MAFSN; MNR; MLGHAP; CSO; CCFs Private sector; Civil Society; Youth and Women-led Groups; CBOs	Technical, financial and human resources	2028/29	264 705 GoL and donor funding
ii. Initiate and implement Nature-based solutions (NbS) Programmes	NbS strategy developed and operationalised Wetlands and rangelands restored Degraded areas rehabilitated and restored Biodiversity hotspots maintained and improved ICM and watershed management activities implemented Sustainable agricultural initiatives established Sustainable livelihoods enhanced	MEF	MAFSN; MNR; MLGHAP; CSO; CCFs; CBOs; Private sector; Youth and Women-led Groups; Academia; media	Technical, financial and human resources	2027/30	2 941 176 GoL and donor funding
iii. Review and update National Action Plan under UNCCD to combat desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD)	Baseline assessments and stakeholder consultations undertaken	MEF	MAFSN; MNR; MLGHAP; MGYSD; CCFs Private sector; Youth and Women-led Groups; CBOs; CSOs; Academia; media	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	3 941 176 GoL and donor funding

	Land degradation hotspots identified mapped and restored					
iv. Initiate and implement Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM) projects	Compendium of Project Concepts and Proposals developed Resource mobilisation undertaken CDM Projects implemented Implementation progress and lessons learned documented M&E regularly conducted	Private Sector	MEF; MAFSN; MNR; MFDP; MLGHAP; MGYSD; CSOs	Technical, financial and human resources	2029/30	8 823 530 GoL and donor funding
v. Introduce City and Urban Greening Programmes	Feasibility studies and EIA undertaken Sites identified and surveyed Green gardens and spaces initiated M&E and reporting undertaken	MEF	MAFSN; MNR; MLGHAP; MTISB; MFDP; CSO; CCFs Private sector; Youth and Women-led Groups; CBOs; Academia; media	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	1 029 411 GoL and donor funding
Total budget – Target 11						**16 999 998**
SUBTOTAL – GOAL B						**73 782 362**

GOAL C: SHARE BENEFITS FAIRLY						
National Target 12: By 2030, appropriate legislation and policy instruments are in place for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources, Traditional knowledge and Digital Sequence Information						
Strategic Initiative 12.1: Promote fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources						
Actions	**Output/Progress indicators**	**Lead institution (s)**	**Supporting institutions**	**Indicative resource requirements**	**Time frame [Fiscal years]**	**Costing and source of funds (USD)**
i. Develop/review legislative, administrative and policy frameworks on access and benefit sharing (ABS) and related frameworks	National ABS policy prepared Traditional Knowledge Policy on biodiversity conservation developed National ABS legislation formulated IPR legislation reviewed and updated Administrative guidelines and procedures developed Community bylaws developed	MEF	MAFSN; MTISB; MLGHAP; MPS; MNR; MLJ; MFDP; MoH; MGYSD; Academia; Private Sector ReNoka; CBOs; CSOs; Media; Traditional Healers Association; Youth and Women-led Groups;	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/28	313 000 GoL and donor funding
ii. Capacitate National Focal Point and Competent National Authorities on implementation of Nagoya Protocol	Capacitated unit that deals with the Nagoya Protocol Model ABS agreements created	MEF	MAFSN; MOET; Academia; MTISB; MNR; MoH; MTSAC	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	882 360 GoL and donor funding

iii. Sensitise and train CBOs, CSOs, Local Authorities, communities and marginalised groups on ABS	Prior informed Consent obtained	MEF	MAFSN; MOET; Academia; MTISB; MNR; MoH; MTSAC; Traditional Healers Association, CBOs, CSOs	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	1 530 000 GoL and donor funding
iv. Facilitate equitable and fair sharing of benefits between biodiversity providers and users	ABS Agreements signed Permits issued Monetary and non-monetary benefits shared with providers Mutually agreed terms (MAT) established M&E undertaken	MEF	MAFSN; MOET; Academia; MTISB; MNR; MoH; MTSAC; Traditional Healers Association, CBOs, CSOs	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	1 650 060 GoL and donor funding
Total budget – Target 12						**4 375 420**
SUBTOTAL GOAL C						**4 375 420**

GOAL D: INVEST AND COLLABORATE						
Target 10: By 2030: Lesotho has developed and commenced implementing an effective participatory and updated NBSAP and has adopted it as a policy instrument across all sectors.						
Strategic Initiative 10.1: Ensure inclusivity and participation on biodiversity management in decision-making at all levels						
i. Mobilize private sector organizations to support and fund biodiversity and ecosystem conservation initiatives	Private institutions participation increased Environmentally friendly policies and practices adopted	MEF & Private Sector	RSL; MFDP; MTISB; MFAIR MLGHAP; LNDC	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	147 060 GoL funding
ii. Develop and implement Public Private Sector Engagement Strategy	Technical and Financial Resources mobilised (including pledges) Private sector-led conservation initiatives developed and implemented	MEF, MFDP	Private Sector; RSL; MFDP; MTISB; MFAIR MLGHAP; LNDC; Media	Technical, financial and human resources	2027/30	176 470 GoL and donor funding
iii. Promote participation of Civil Society and Media in biodiversity conservation initiatives	Civil Society participation increased Media reporting and programmes on biodiversity issues increased Visibility on biodiversity issues Increased	Media; MEF; Civil Society	MFDP; MTISB; MLGHAP; MGYSD; MNR; MPA; MLJ Private Sector; CSOs; Academia; Youth and Women-led Groups; Human Rights Groups	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	150 000 GoL funding
Strategic Initiative 10.2: Implementation of NBSAP enhanced through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.						
Actions	**Output/Progress indicators**	**Responsible institution**	**Supporting institutions**	**Indicative resource requirements**	**Time frame [Fiscal years]**	**Costs and Source of funds**

i. Facilitate adoption and implementation of NBSAP III	NBSAP III officially endorsed NBSAP III disseminated to all stakeholders and communities Dissemination strategy developed and operationalised Media programmes produced and aired/published	MEF	MAFSN; MTISB; MLGHAP; MPS; MLJ; MFDP; MoH; MFAIR; MNR; MTSAC; MGYSD; Academia; Private Sector ReNoka; LHDA, CBOs; Traditional Healers Association; CSOs; Youth and Women-led Groups	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	1 235 295 GoL and donor funding
ii. Strengthen monitoring mechanisms and tools for effective implementation of NBSAP III	Monitoring and Evaluation Plan developed and operationalised Monitoring systems established and operationalised M&E Reports produced	MEF	MLGHAP; MFDP; MoH; MFAIR; MNR; MTSAC; MGYSD; CSOs; Academia; Private Sector	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	2 863 333
Strategic Initiative 10.3: Enhance management and coordination capacity of lead institutions on biodiversity conservation						
Actions	**Output/Progress indicators**	**Lead institution (s)**	**Supporting institutions**	**Indicative resource requirements**	**Time frame [Fiscal years]**	**Costing and source of funds (USD)**

i. Establish Lesotho Environment Authority (LEA)	Situation analysis and feasibility study conducted Decision-makers sensitised and mobilised Cabinet approval obtained Law establishing LEA prepared and enacted Established Environment Authority Institutional structures set up and capacitated	MEF	MAFSN; MLGHAP; MPS; MLJ; MFDP; MTISB; MGYSD; Academia; Private Sector ReNoka; LHDA, CBOs; CSOs	Technical, financial and human resources	2027/30	7 500 000 GoL and donor funding
ii. Establish and improve biodiversity governance structures and coordination	Committees established/ resuscitated Relevant committees gazetted	MEF	MLGHAP; MAFSN; MFDP; MTISB; MGYSD; Academia; Private Sector; ReNoka; LHDA, CBOs; CSOs	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	2 058 825 GoL and donor funding
iii. Design and implement Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in biodiversity conservation programmes	PPP framework developed and operationalised	MEF	MLGHAP; MAFSN; MFDP; MTISB; ; LNDC; Private Sector;MGYSD; Academia;	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/28	764 705 GoL and donor funding

	PPP conservation programmes negotiated and implemented		ReNoka; LHDA, CBOs; CSOs			
Total budget – Target 10						**13 186 863**
National Target 15: By 2030, Science-based knowledge, and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied						
Strategic Initiative 15.1: Promote the role of traditional/indigenous knowledge systems (IKS), innovations and practices in the management of biodiversity						
Actions	**Output/Progress indicators**	**Lead institution (s)**	**Supporting institutions**	**Indicative resource requirements**	**Time frame [Fiscal years]**	**Costing and source of funds (USD)**
i. Assessment of IKS, innovations and practices for biodiversity conservation	Indigenous knowledge profiled and documented Database on IKS established Patents applications for innovations initiated and registered	MICSTI; MLJ	MEF; MAFSN; MTISB; MLGHAP; MLJ; MFDP; MoH; MNR; MGYSD; Academia; Private Sector; LHDA; Traditional Healers Association, CSOs; Youth and Women-led Groups	Technical, financial and human resources	2027/30	1 470 590 GoL and donor funding
ii. Complement scientific knowledge with traditional knowledge on biodiversity conservation	Collaborations between scientific and IKS holders established Research collectively conducted and published	Academia	MEF; MAFSN; MTISB; MLGHAP; MLJ; MFDP; MoH; MFAIR; MNR; MTSAC; MGYSD; Academia;	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	647 060 GoL funding

	Collective innovations developed and documented		Private Sector ReNoka; LHDA, Traditional Healers Association, CBOs, CSOs; Youth and Women-led Groups			
Strategic Initiative 15.2: Strengthen institutional capacity, collaboration and technology transfer at all levels to promote informed and integrated decision-making						
i. Review and update capacity building strategy	Capacity building strategy approved and implemented	MEF	MAFSN; MTISB; MLGHAP; MLJ; MFDP; MoH; MFAIR; MNR; MTSAC; MGYSD; Academia; Private Sector ReNoka; LHDA, Traditional Healers Association, CBOs, CSOs; Youth and Women-led Groups	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/27	147 058 GoL funding
ii. Develop technology and infrastructure to support biodiversity conservation	Technology needs assessment conducted	MICSTI	MEF; MAFSN; MNR; MFDP; Academia;	Technical, financial and human resources	2027/30	2 647 060 GoL and donor funding

	Technology and infrastructure availed		Private Sector; CBOs; CSOs			
iii. Establish regional and international collaborations and networks on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use	Memoranda of Cooperation (MoC) developed Regional and international networks established	MEF	MFAIR; MAFSN; MNR; CSOs; MLGHAP	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	294 118 GoL and donor funding
iv. Implement MDTCA Conservation and Development Strategy (2008-2028) and the JBCC agreement	Joint action plans developed and implemented Participation in JBCC; MDTP initiatives	MEF	MAFSN; MFAIR; MNR; MLGHAP	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/28	194 200 GoL and donor funding
Strategic Initiative 15.3: Implement Lesotho's obligations under various Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)						
i. Domesticate multi-lateral environmental agreements (MEAs)	Requisite national legislation Developed Country obligations compiled National reporting carried out National strategies and action plans developed and implemented	MEF	MAFSN; MNR; MFDP; MLGHAP; MGYSD; MLJ; CSOs; Youth and Women-led Groups; Human Rights Groups; Media	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/2030	1 176 500 GoL and donor funding
Total budget – Target 15						**6 576 586**
Target 14: By 2030, financial and other resources have been mobilized to facilitate effective implementation of the NBSAP						
Target 18: By 2030, Lesotho shall progressively increase the level of financial resources from all sources, in an effective, timely and easily accessible manner, including domestic, international, public and private resources, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention and national policies to implement national biodiversity strategy and action plan						
Strategic Initiative 14.1: Develop and implement an effective resource mobilization strategy for implementing NBSAP III						

Actions	Output/Progress indicators	Lead institution (s)	Supporting institutions	Indicative resource requirements	Time frame [Fiscal years]	Costing and source of funds (USD)
i. Review and update Resource Mobilisation Strategy	Resource needs determined Resource Mobilisation Strategy approved and implemented	MFDP; MEF (Biofin Project)	MAFSN; MNR; CSOs Academia; Private Sector	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	764 705 GoL funding
ii. Implement Communication Strategy on biodiversity conservation	Communication requirements determined (e.g. key messages and mode of dissemination) Communication Strategy reviewed, approved and implemented	MEF; MICSTI	MAFSN; MLGHAP; MNR; CSOs; Private Sector, Academia; Media	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	1 617 650 GoL and donor funding
Total budget – Target 14						**2 382 355**
National Target 19: By 2030, Lesotho shall ensure gender equality in the implementation of the NBSAP through gender responsive approach where all have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to biodiversity programmes, particularly women, girls and marginalised groups						
Strategic Initiative 19.1: Strengthen gender equality, inclusion and mainstreaming across all sectors and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and projects						
Actions	**Output/Progress indicators**	**Lead institution (s)**	**Supporting institutions**	**Indicative resource requirements**	**Actions**	**Output/Progress indicators**
i. Implement Biodiversity Gender Action	Gender priorities and needs identified Gender Action Plan developed and operationalized	MGYSD	MAFSN; MTISB; MLGHAP; MLJ; MFDP; MoH; MFAIR; MNR; MTSAC;	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/30	647 058 GoL and donor funding

	Participation of marginalized groups in biodiversity conservation initiatives strengthened (e.g. women, youth, girls, elderly, Herders, people living with disability, LGBTI)		MGYSD; Academia; Private Sector ReNoka; LHDA, Traditional Healers Association, CBOs, CSOs; Youth and Women-led Groups			
ii. Develop and implement gender mainstreaming guidelines	Mainstreaming opportunities and gaps assess Mainstreaming guidelines prepared and operationalized	MGYSD	MEF; MLGHAP; MAFSN; MNR; CSOs; Youth and Women-led Groups	Technical, financial and human resources	2026/27	205 883 GoL funding
Total budget – Target 19						**852 941**
SUBTOTAL GOAL D						**22 998 745**
GRAND TOTAL BUDGET - ALL THE GOALS						**162 806 919**

5.0 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The success of this NBSAP lies heavily on targeted implementation support mechanisms and tools, namely; Monitoring Action Plan, Policy Coherence Action Plan, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Communication Strategy and Gender Action Plan. A summary of these strategic documents is provided in the subsections below.

5.1 Policy Coherence Action Plan

This Plan has been prepared to support NBSAP III implementation by identifying actions and priorities for harmonising regulatory frameworks for effective biodiversity management. The goal of the Plan is to ensure that various policies, legislation, planning, institutions and all actions across different sectors and levels of government work together to effectively implement the K-M GBF goals and targets (**Annex 2**).

5.2 Communication Strategy

The Communication Strategy is one of the critical implementation tools for effectively operationalising the NBSAP III. It has (1) mapped the key stakeholders for implementing NBSAP III, (2) identified and crafted key messages to be communicated about the NBSAP III and (3) prescribed communication and outreach mechanisms (**Annex 5**).

5.3 Gender Action Plan

Lesotho's NBSAP III has prioritised issues of gender and ensured their implementation by developing a Gender Action Plan (GAP) which aligns with the Gender Action Plan 2022–2030, and other key national documents such as the National Gender and Development Policy 2018-2030 (**Annex 6**).

5.4 Monitoring Action Plan

The Monitoring Action Plan prepared for Lesotho focuses on tracking progress towards achieving the goals and targets of the KM-GBF. The Plan was largely informed by the gap analysis conducted on the national biodiversity monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system (**Annex 1**). The identified gaps and barriers were used to develop outcomes to improve the M&E system. The plan consists of a monitoring framework with national targets, headline indicators, component indicators, and complementary indicators. It also includes mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting, and review which will track implementation progress for Lesotho's NBSAP III in line with attaining the KM-GBF aspirations. The Action Plan has a time frame which will help to track the progress, and this will require progressive and regular monitoring. Whereas monitoring is important and will be done more frequently compared to evaluation, however, it is critical that the latter is also undertaken including terminal evaluation at the end of the NBSAP III cycle.

6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Since becoming a party to the UNCBD, Lesotho has taken strides to comply with its obligations under the MEA and its two protocols. The situation and gap analysis undertaken for aligning the country's NBSAP to the KM-GBF indicates that Lesotho previously developed and implemented two NBSAPs. The analysis revealed achievements, opportunities and some gaps. Notable achievements include development of legislative frameworks and institutional structures as well as administrative tools such as policies, strategies and action plans. In addition, projects and programmes on biodiversity conservation and environmental management were developed and implemented. Opportunities which were illuminated by the analysis comprise Lesotho's membership in the different MEAs and the associated funding opportunities. The identified gaps related mainly to most of the critical legislations which are still in draft form (e.g. Biodiversity Resource Management Bill, Biosafety Bill, Range Resource Management Bill). Nevertheless, the strengths and opportunities outweigh the gaps in the national implementation of the KM-GBF and improvement of biodiversity conservation in Lesotho.

The NBSAP II was reviewed and updated to produce NBSAP III which is aligned with the KM-GBF and its four global goals for 2050 and 23 targets for 2030. In its newly developed NBSAP III, Lesotho has adopted the four KM-GBF goals and prepared 19 national targets aligned to the Framework. This process followed a "Whole of Government and a Whole of Societies approach", which entailed integrated participatory and collaborative engagement to enhance coordination. Going forward, this same approach will form the core foundation of implementation of NBSAP III.

By developing this NBSAP III, Lesotho has reaffirmed its commitment of becoming a global citizen in the fight against biodiversity degradation and the achievement of its obligations under the UNCBD and its protocols. This has been ensured by aligning the strategy with the KM-GBF, and by also developing the accompanying implementation plans to enhance the performance of NBSAP III. These plans include Monitoring Action Plan, Policy Coherence Action Plan, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Communication Strategy and Gender Action Plan for inclusivity of everyone, particularly the marginalised gender groups.. An effort was also made to cater for resource mobilisation and financing of the NBSAP. For instance, by introducing specific targets on financing (Target 14 and 18).

In addition to these plans and resource mobilisation, a key recommendation to support operationalisation of NBSAP III is to urgently facilitate enactment of relevant legislations that are still in draft form. Monitoring and evaluation should be continuously undertaken to ensure effective implementation of biodiversity conservation measures.

ANNEXES

The following Annexes have been prepared to support implementation of NBSAP III, and are provided as stand-alone documents, but must be read together with the current NBSAP III document:

Annex 1a: Monitoring Systems Gap Analysis Report.

Annex 1b: Monitoring Action Plan.

Annex 2: Policy and Institutional Frameworks Gap Analysis Report and Policy Coherence Action Plan.

Annex 3: Biodiversity Baseline Assessment Report.

Annex 4: Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

Annex 5: Communication Strategy.

Annex 6: Gender Action Plan.

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