



KHUBELU SUB-CATCHMENT PROFILE



PROFILES OF PRIORITY SUB-CATCHMENTS

Version 1 | April 2021

*Integrated Catchment Management
National Programme in Lesotho*

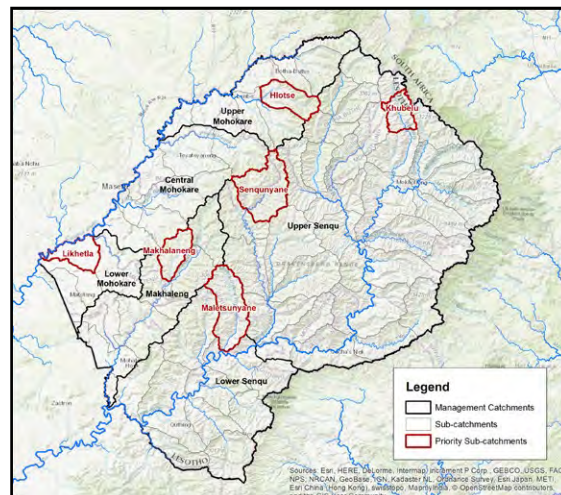
ReNOKA ke lekhhotla le ikemiselitseng ho khothalletsa kopano le ts'ebeliso 'moho har'a batho ba phelang tikolohong a noka ea Senqu-Orange ka sepheo sa ho sireletsa le ho ntlafatsa mobu le metsi molemong oa katleho ea bohle ba phelang tikolohong ena.

'ReNOKA' is an active citizenry movement that aims to engage, unify and inspire all communities living and working within the Orange-Senqu River Basin to act together to protect and restore land and water for the shared prosperity of the basin and its people.

Report produced by the Integrated Catchment Management Unit (ICU) of the Government of Lesotho. Maseru, Lesotho - April 2021. This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Its contents are the sole responsibility of the ICU and do not necessarily reflect the views of the EU or BMZ.

About the National Programme for Integrated Catchment Management (ICM)

The Government of Lesotho has embarked on an ambitious National Programme for Integrated Catchment Management. Its aim is to rehabilitate degraded watersheds across the country and to put in place prevention measures that will halt the further degradation of Lesotho's catchment areas. The sustainable management of Lesotho's catchments are of critical importance for water, energy and food security – not only in Lesotho but in the entire Orange–Senqu River Basin and Gauteng Province, Southern Africa's economic centre.



The National Programme for Integrated Catchment Management will need to address important challenges. Widespread socio-economic vulnerability in Lesotho and the absence of effective regulations for the management of land and water resources have led to significant environmental degradation: It is estimated that Lesotho loses two per cent of its topsoil annually and that two-thirds of households live on degraded land. Climate change presents an aggravating factor, due to an increase in rainfall variability and extreme events like floods and droughts.

The European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), through its transboundary water management programme in the SADC region, have agreed to support the Government of Lesotho's efforts through a technical cooperation project, implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. The overall objective of the technical cooperation project is the following: “Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) facilitates socio-economic development and adaptation to climate change in Lesotho”, with the specific objective being: “ICM institutionalised and under full implementation in Lesotho based on gender equality and climate change adaptation principles”.

The support project will be implemented from January 2020 to December 2023 (four years) as a multi-donor action with 28-million euros financing from the European Union and six-million euros financing from BMZ. The Government of Lesotho provides five-million euros in parallel financing.

Based on a multi-level and multi-stakeholder approach, the following five interlinked outputs should be achieved:

- An effective and efficient gender-sensitive and climate-resilient policy framework for ICM is developed and applied;
- Effective and efficient institutions for ICM are established, with equitable representation of women and youth;
- Capacity, skills and knowledge of the public, private sector and civil society for sustainable ICM is facilitated;
- ICM measures are implemented; and,
- Capacities are strengthened for coordination, monitoring, supervision and general programme management.

The ICM Action has been branded as ReNOKA, which is derived from the Sesotho for “we are a river”.

KHUBELU



SECTION A:

Socio-demographic information



01. Location of the sub-catchment

The Khubelu sub-catchment is situated about 300km north-east of Lesotho's capital city Maseru, in the Mokhotlong District, and covers a total area of about 27 842 hectares. This sub-catchment is in the rural areas of Lesotho near the Letšeng Diamond Mine. The closest main town to the Khubelu sub-catchment is Mokhotlong, however, Mapholaneng is a small town in closer proximity en route to Mokhotlong. Khubelu River runs through this sub-catchment, almost dividing it in half. Winters in the Khubelu sub-catchment are dry and cold with snow while summers are hot; often with rain. The Polihali Dam - which is also fed by the Khubelu River - is in the process of construction downstream of the sub-catchment.

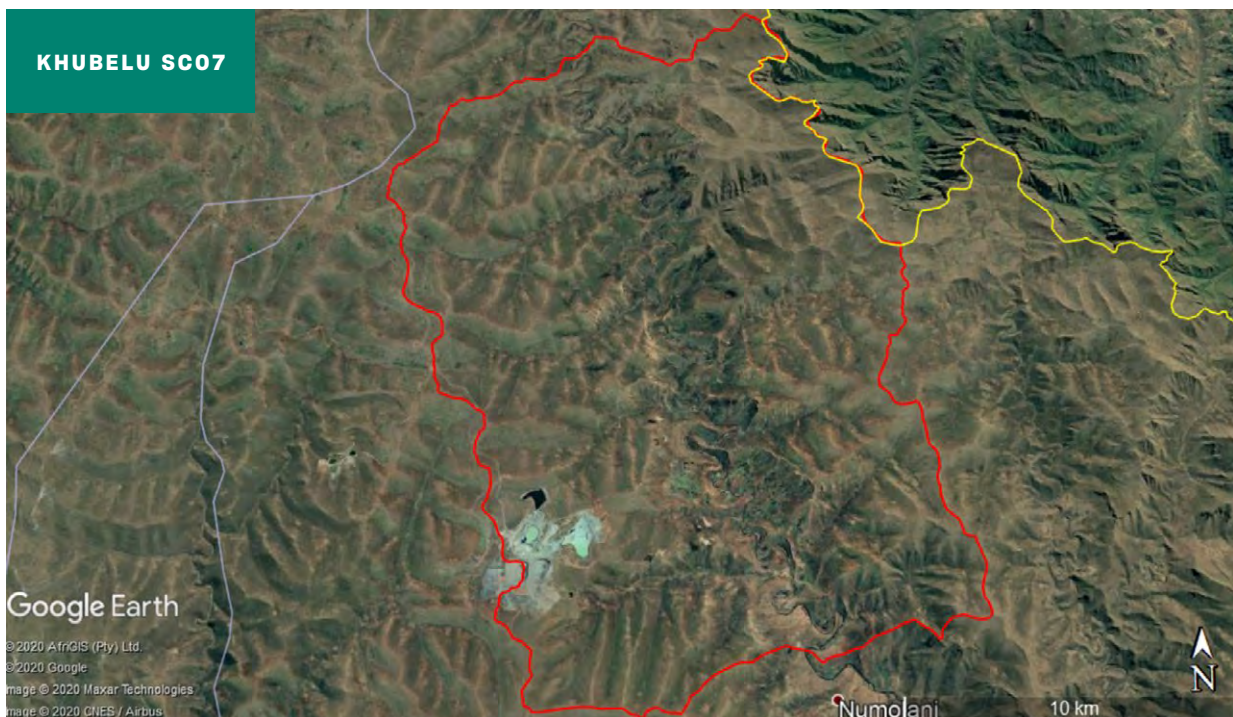


Figure 1: Satellite image of Khubelu sub-catchment



02. Population size and composition

As per 2016 census data, the total estimated population of Khubelu PSC based on all nine villages within the sub-catchment is 1 104 people; consisting of 541 females and 563 males. Nthimolane has the highest number of people with 98 males and 105 females, and the highest number of both females and males. The village with the least population is Maloraneng - Khohloaneng, 14 with females and males populating the village. Generally, the difference in the female and male population does not seem to be significant.

The following table is based on 2016 census data:

District	Constituency	Community Council	Village	Households	Population		
					Male	Female	Total
MOKHOTLONG	Malingoaneng	Seate J01	Pae-la-Itlhatsoa	45	80	73	153
			Maloraneng	36	64	65	129
			Maloraneng – Khohloaneng	5	14	14	28
			Nthimolane	49	98	105	203
			Patising	14	33	25	58
			Lichecheng	26	68	60	128
	Senqu	Seate J01	Ha Seema	15	30	37	67
			Ha Moroka	42	97	93	190
			Ha Ramosoeu	40	79	69	168
Total				272	563	541	1104

Source: Census 2016 Database



03. Socio-economic information

This section visualises Khubelu PSC socio-economic information. Khubelu PSC is made up of two constituencies, namely Malingoaneng and Senqu.

METHODOLOGICAL REMARKS:

Socio-economic information including poverty, income and consumption sources, access to basic services and asset holding were analysed from Continuous Multipurpose survey (CMS)/Household Budget Survey (HBS) data collected by the Bureau of Statistics (BOS) Lesotho in 2017/18 which is the latest data available at the time of writing.

It is worth noting that the results of this exercise are only disaggregated at the constituency level as the lowest point. The results cover the full constituency - not necessarily the villages targeted by the project. However, caution should be considered when generalising results since the data could not be disaggregated to only villages falling within the targeted sub-catchment.

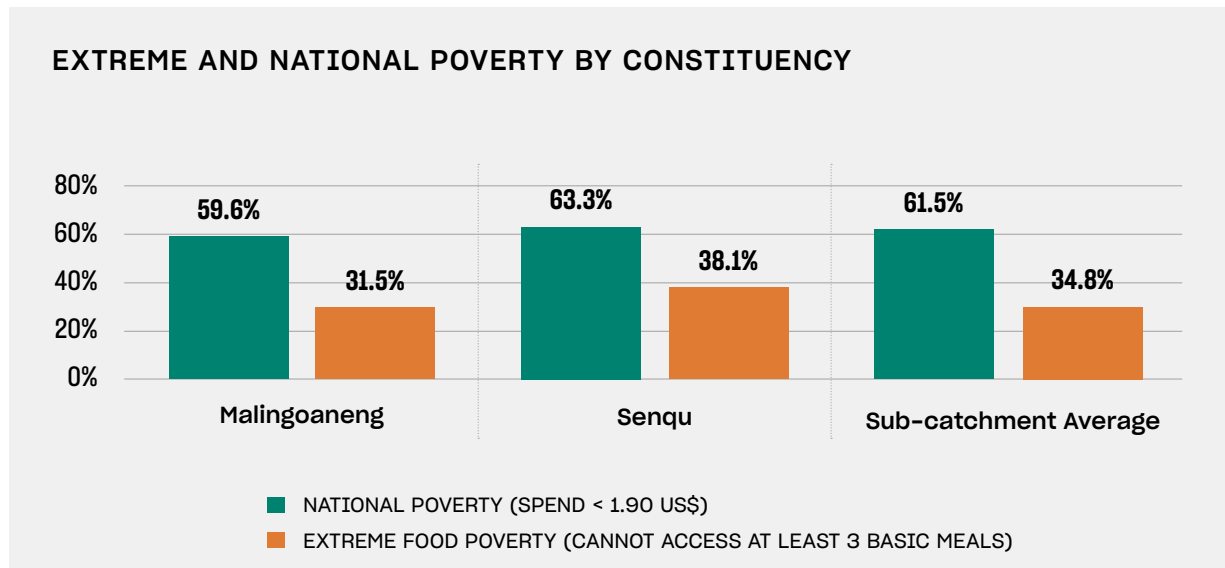
Table: Households interviewed per constituency of interest

SUB-CATCHMENT	CONSTITUENCY	NUMBER OF HHS INTERVIEWED	NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS REPRESENTED
SC7-Khubelu	Malingoaneng	84	28429
SC7-Khubelu	Senqu	72	23321

Poverty

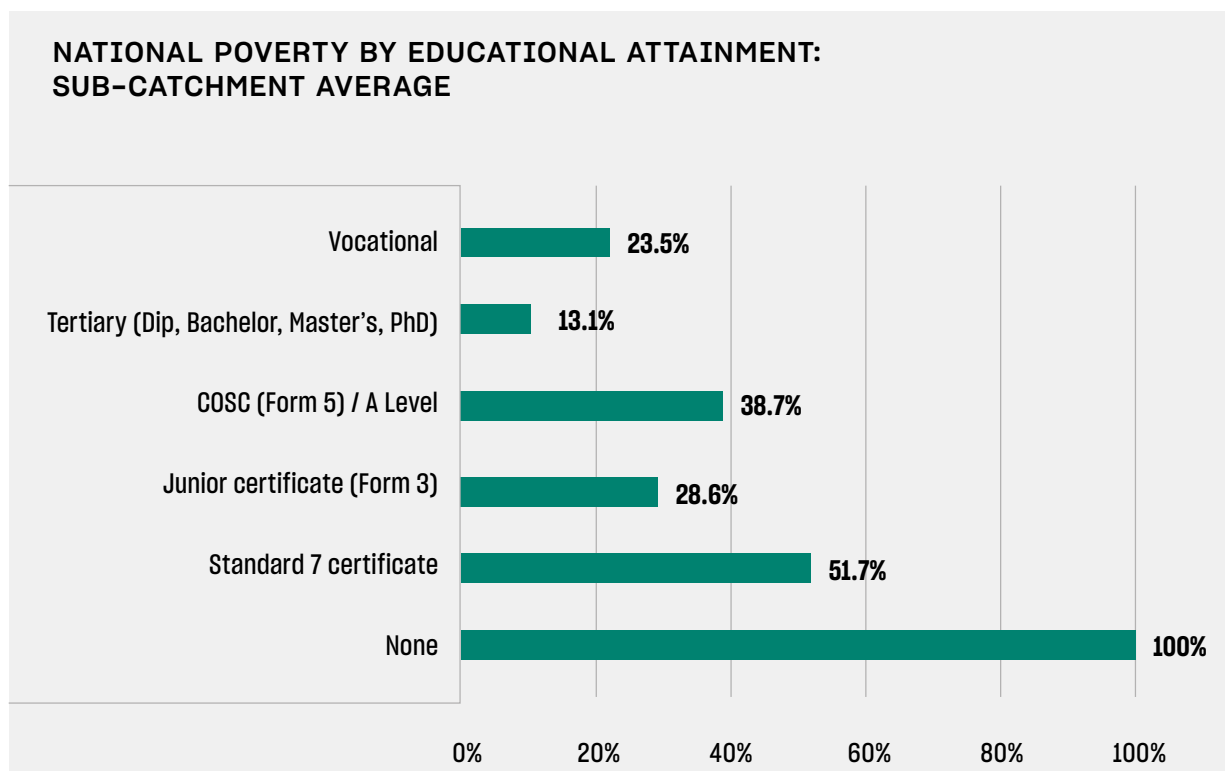
POVERTY BY CONSTITUENCY

Malingoaneng and Senqu constituencies reported more than 55% of individuals suffering national poverty but on average at least 61% and 34% of the households in the Khubelu sub-catchment area suffered national and extreme poverty respectively.



POVERTY BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

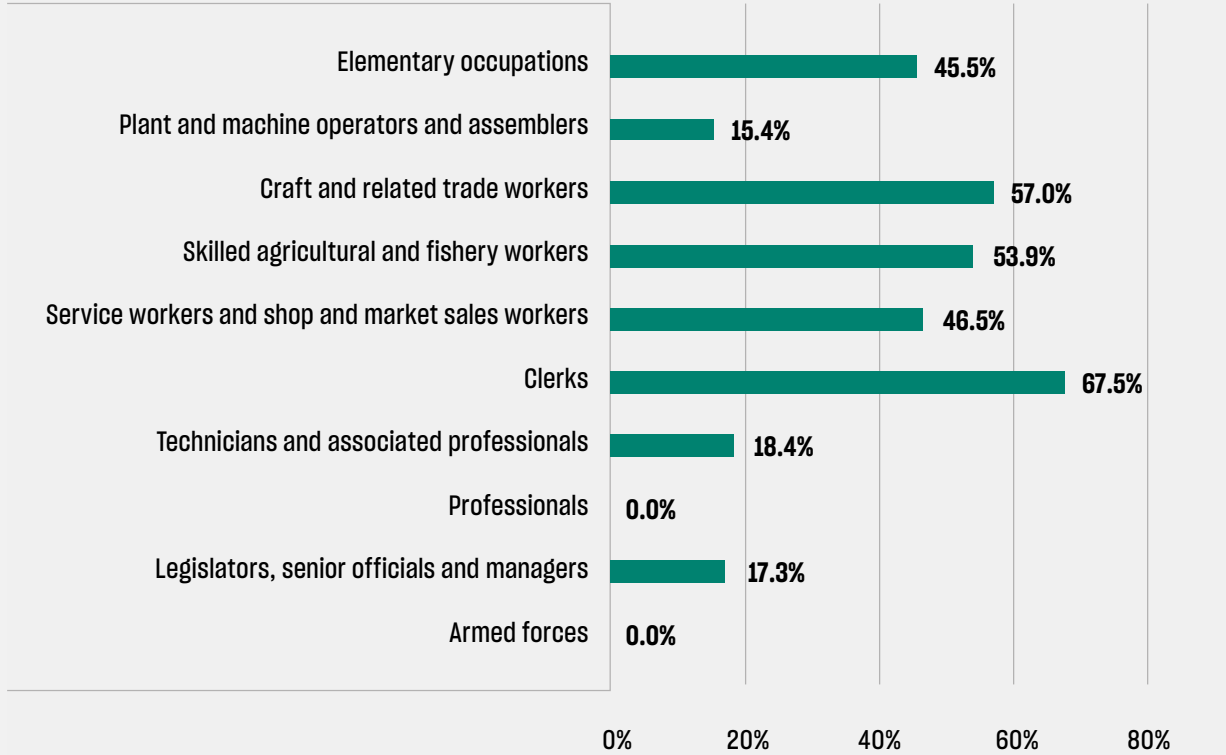
Individuals with no educational attainment and 51% of individuals with a Standard 7 education spend less than \$1.90 per day, while 13% of individuals with a tertiary level educational attainment reported spending less than \$1.90 per day.



POVERTY BY JOB TYPE

The figure below for national poverty by occupational group shows that 67% and 57% of individuals working as professionals and in the armed forces reported no national poverty while only 15% of plants and machine operators and assemblers reported having national poverty.

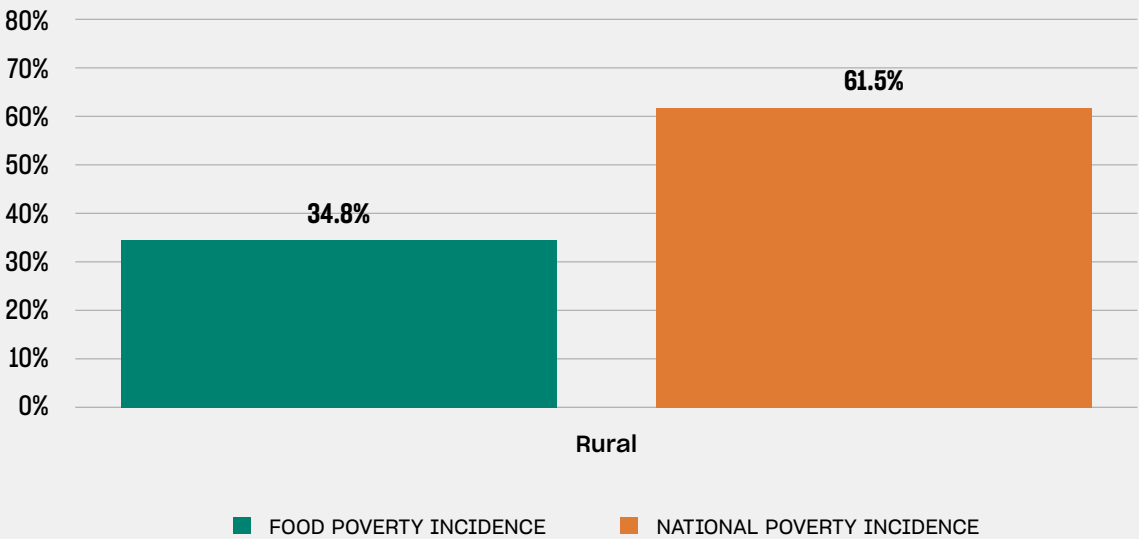
NATIONAL POVERTY BY OCCUPATIONAL GROUP



RURAL VERSUS URBAN POVERTY

There is a high prevalence of individuals going through a day spending less than \$1.90, as well as those who eat less than three meals per day within rural settings of the Khubelu sub-catchment. This sub-catchment does not have urban settings, hence the graph depiction of rural dwellers only.

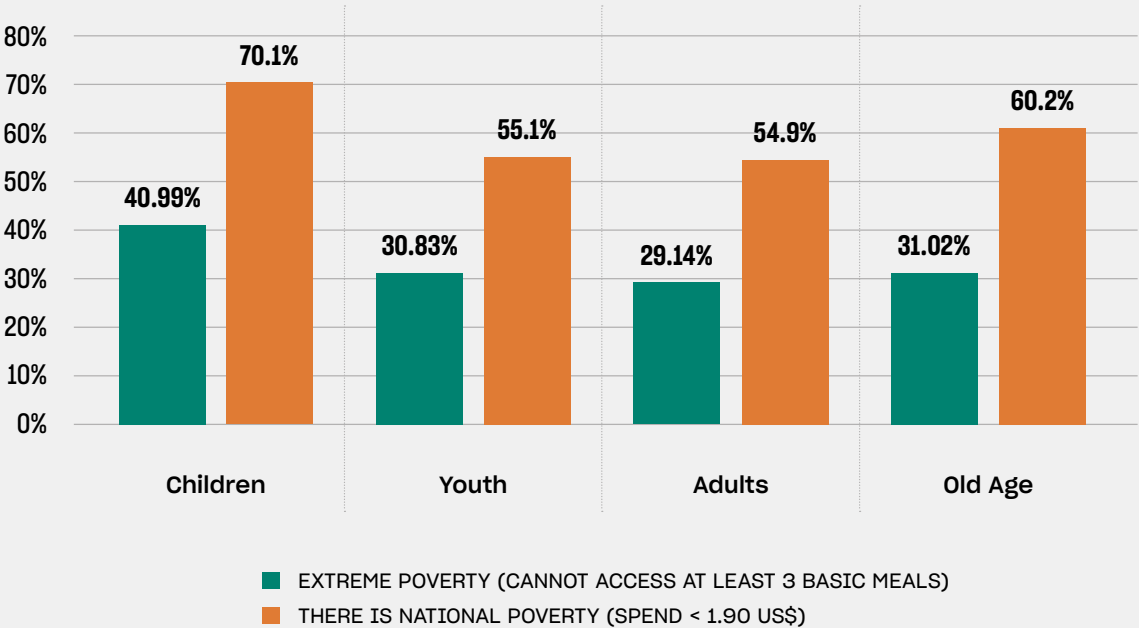
EXTREME AND NATIONAL POVERTY BY RURAL



POVERTY BY AGE GROUP

On average, within the sub-catchment children were mostly affected by poverty, as 70% and 40% of children suffered both national and extreme poverty consequently. The age group with the least prevalence of poverty on average was adults, with 54% enduring national poverty and 29% suffering food poverty.

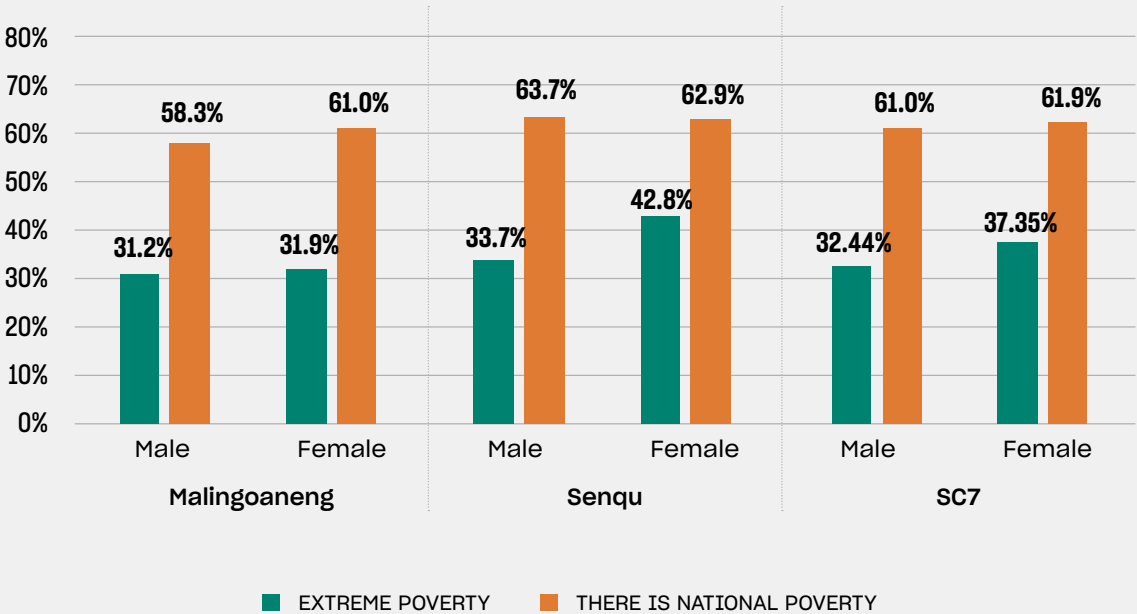
EXTREME AND NATIONAL POVERTY BY AGE GROUP



POVERTY BY GENDER

There is no disparity in terms of poverty by age group within the Khubelu sub-catchment; on average 61% of males and females reported experiencing poverty. The least affected constituency in the sub-catchment was Malingoaneng which recorded 61% of women suffering national poverty and 31% experiencing food poverty.

EXTREME AND NATIONAL POVERTY BY GENDER

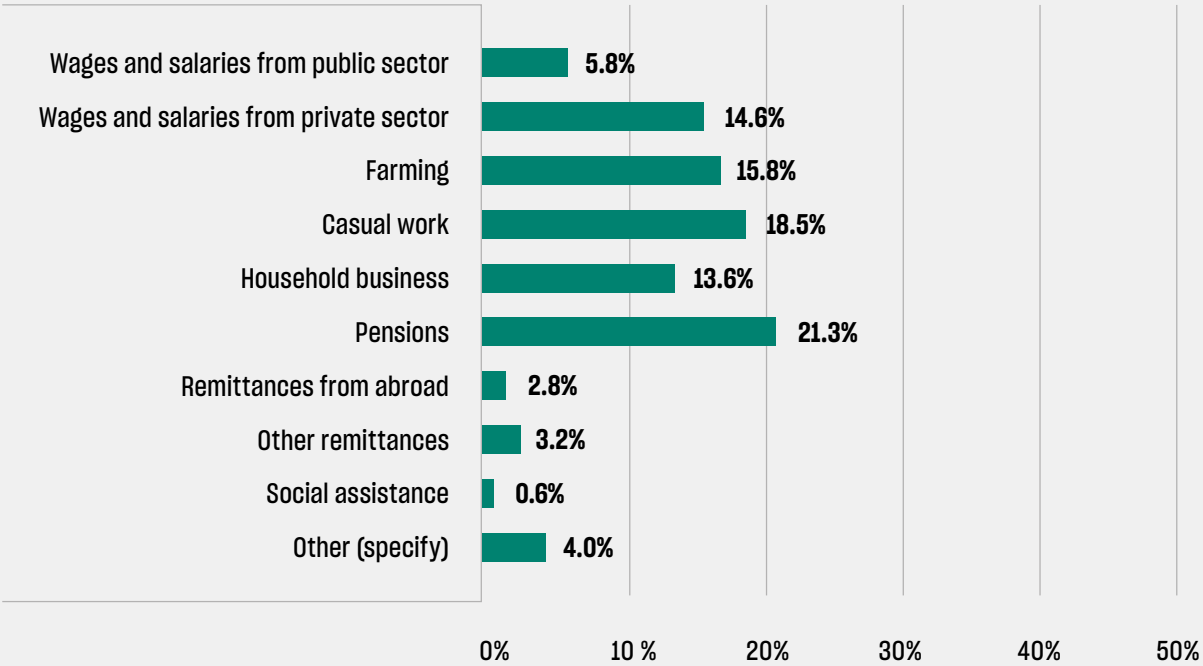


Income and consumption sources

MAIN SOURCE OF INCOME IN A HOUSEHOLD

Households residing in the Khubelu sub-catchment derive most of their income from pensions and, on average, 21% of them reported to have received income pensions. The least reported income source was social assistance, as only 0.6% of the households reported to have received income from social assistance.

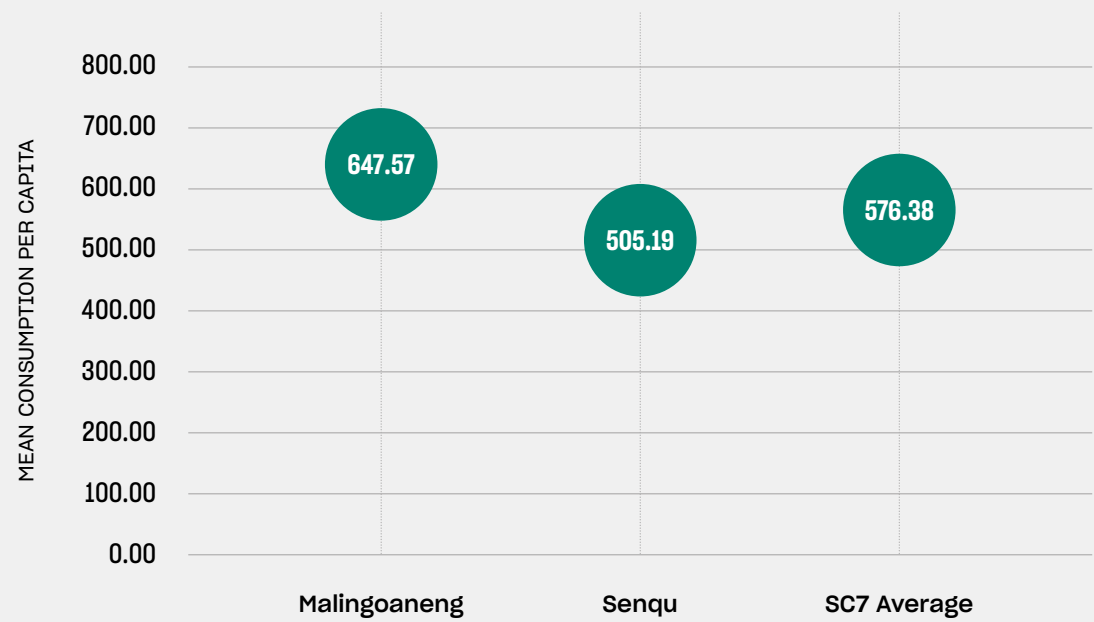
MAIN SOURCE OF INCOME FOR THE HOUSEHOLD:
SC7 AVERAGE



MEAN CONSUMPTION PER CAPITA

The mean consumption per capita for the Khubelu sub-catchment on average was M576.38, whereas Malingoaneng and Senqu reported 647.57 and 505.19 mean monthly consumption per capita.

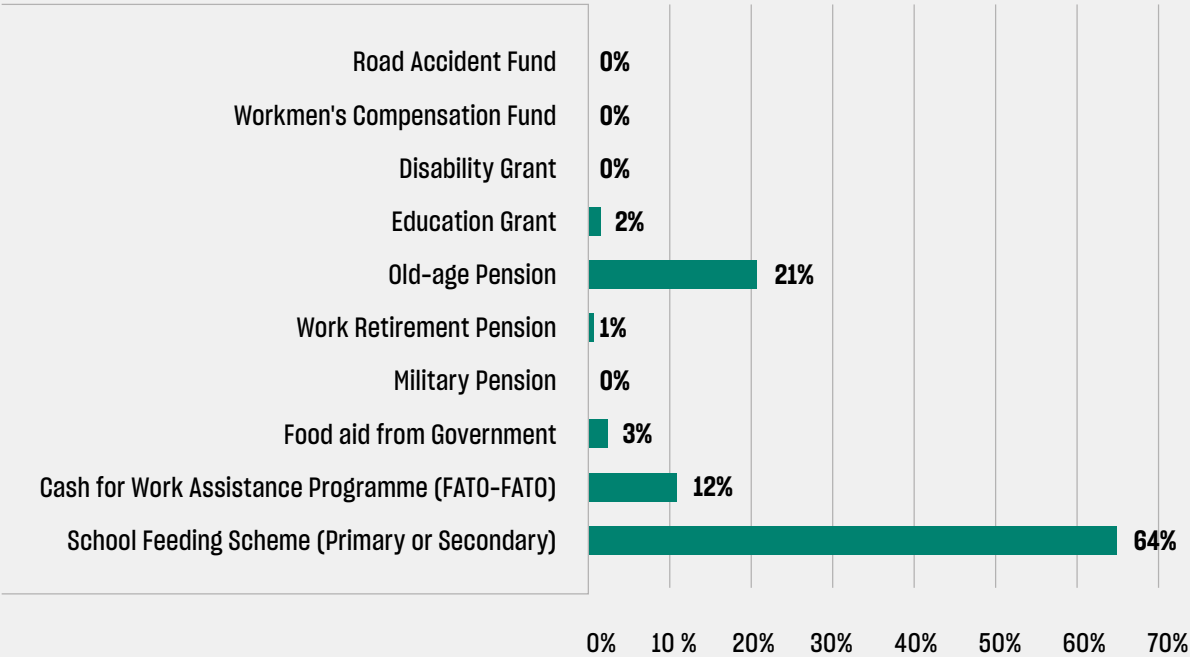
CONSUMPTION PER CAPITA (MONTHLY)



Access to social protection

The figures below show that on average 64% of the population in Seboche sub-catchment reported having received access to social protection from the school feeding scheme (in primary or secondary phase), while only 12% and 3% of the household reported having access to the Cash for Work assistance programme or food aid from government respectively.

SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMMES:
SC7 AVERAGE

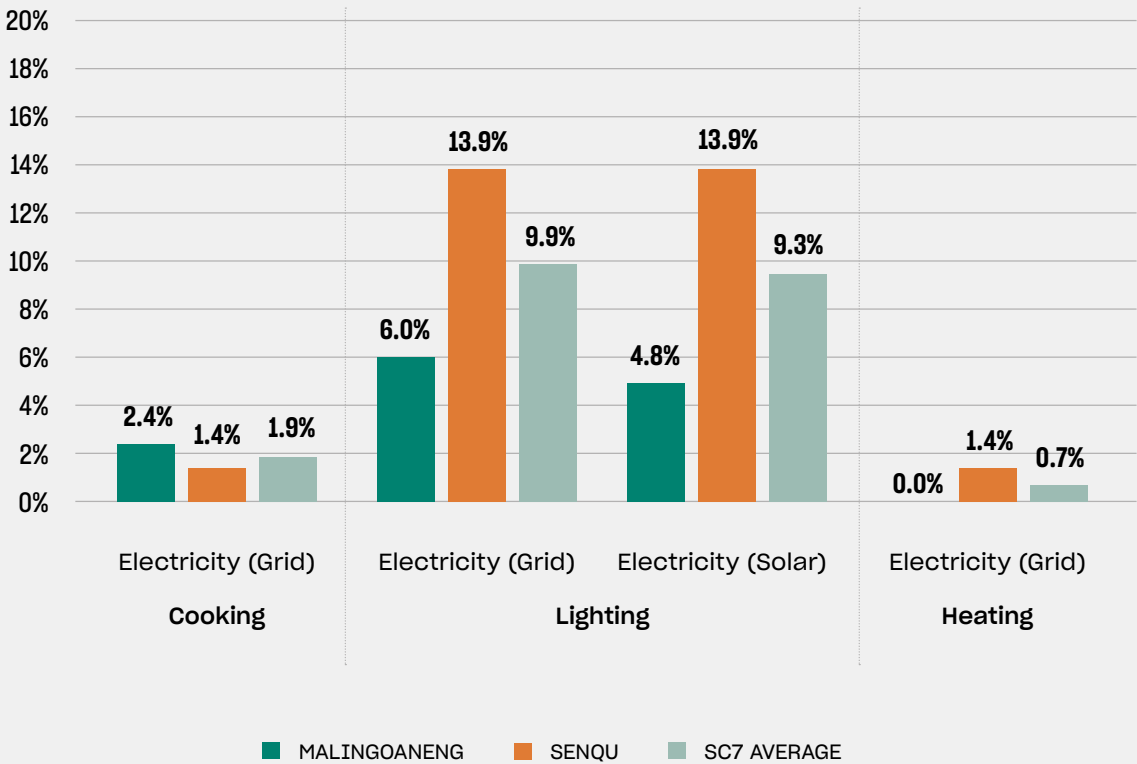


Living standard

ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY

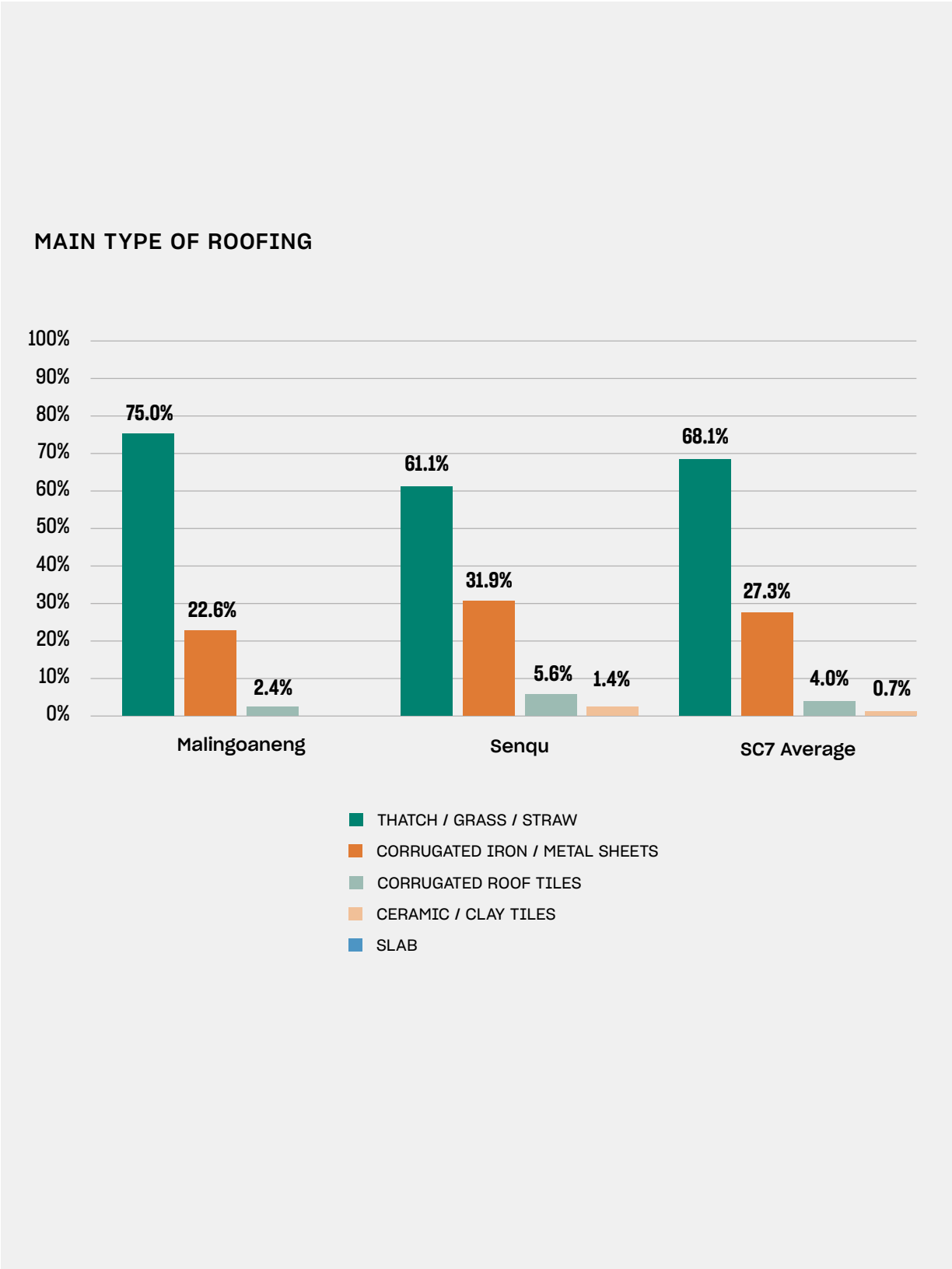
On average, households in the Senqu and Malingoaneng constituencies reported as high as 9% access to the electricity grid and access to electricity for solar which was mainly used for lighting. However, low figures of access to electricity usage for cooking and heating were recorded in those constituencies within the Khubelu sub-catchment.

ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY



MAIN TYPE OF ROOFING

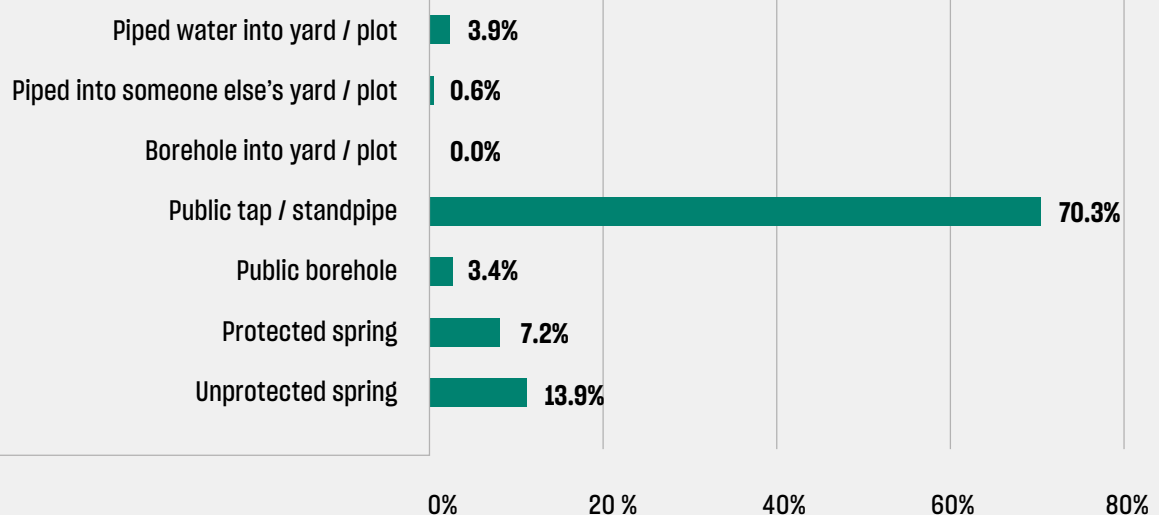
On average, 68% of households residing in the Khubelu sub-catchment reported using thatch, grass or straw for roofing, 27% of households are roofed with corrugated iron metal sheeting and less than 5% of households have corrugated roof tiles.



MAIN SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER

There is a high prevalence of households with access to public water or standpipes as their main source of drinking water. On average 85% of households in the region have access to basic drinking water services.

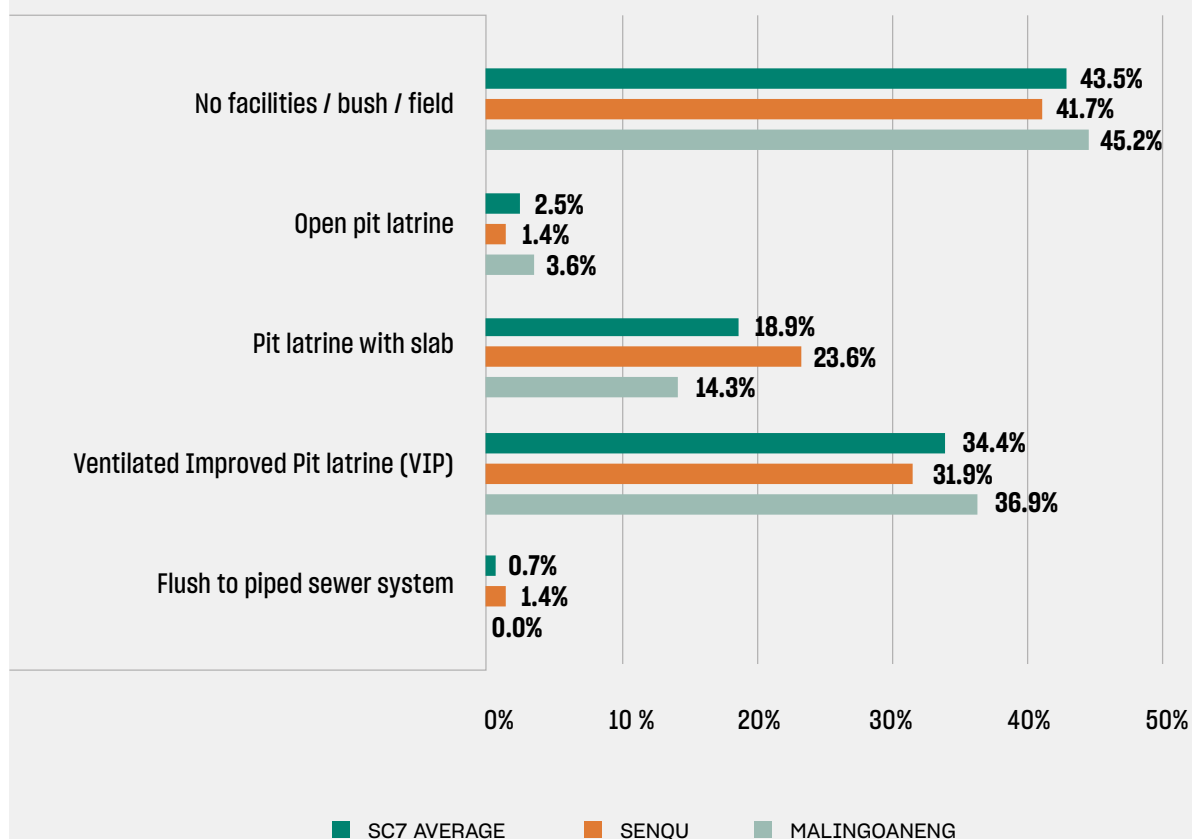
SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER: SC7 AVERAGE



MAIN TYPE OF SANITATION

The majority of households (43%) practise open defecation. There is also a high prevalence of open defecation in the Malingoaneng constituency, with 36% of households in that constituency reporting this form of sanitation. However, Malingoaneng was reported as the constituency with the best access to a ventilated improved pit latrine.

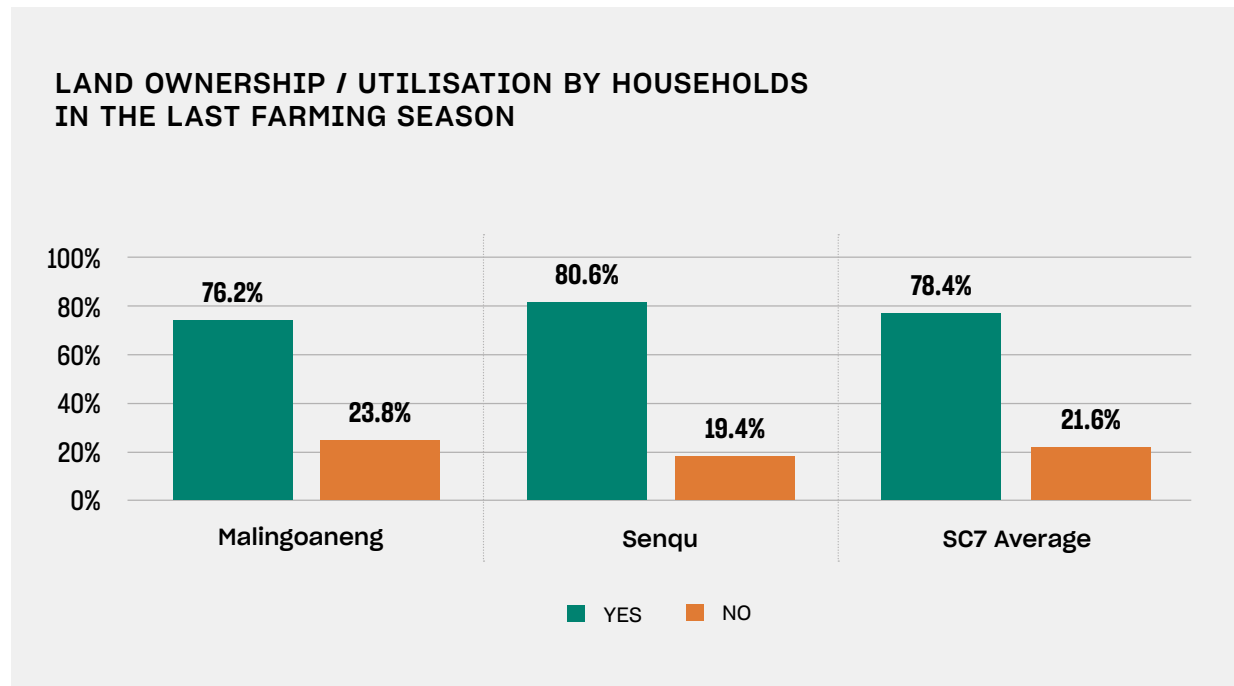
MAIN TYPE OF SANITATION FACILITY USED BY HOUSEHOLDS



ASSET HOLDING

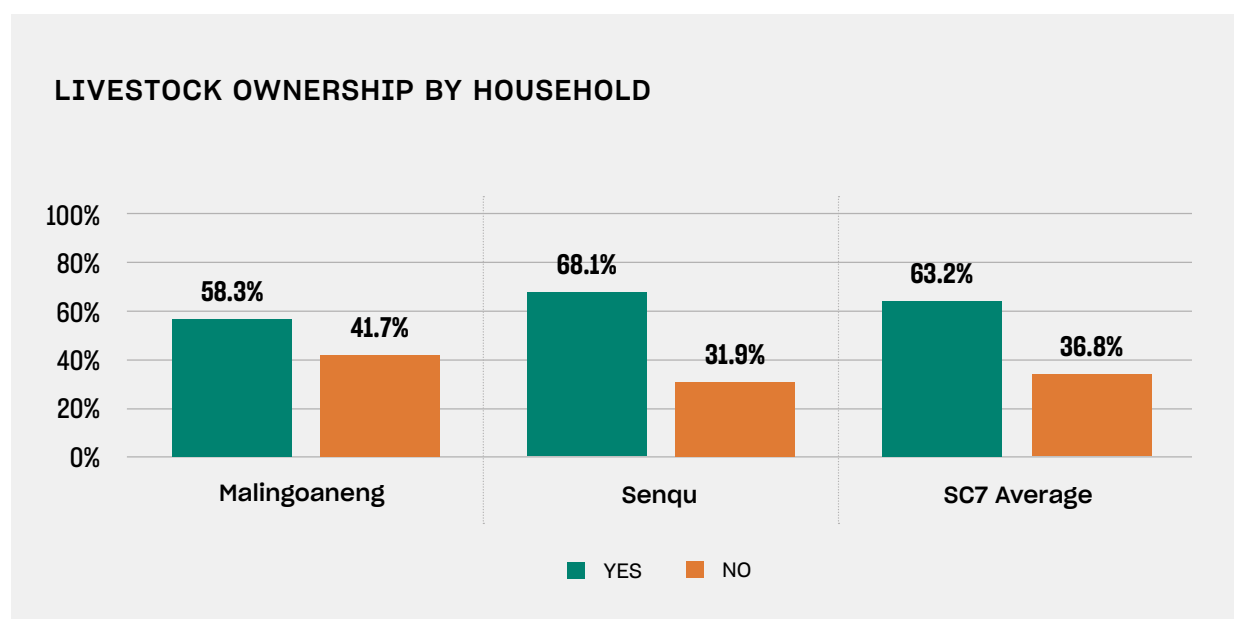
ACCESS TO LAND

On average, 78% of households in the Khubelu sub-catchment region practice land farming and maintain land ownership, however, in Malingoaneng, only 76% of households noted land ownership, and have used it in 2017/2018 (the last farming season).



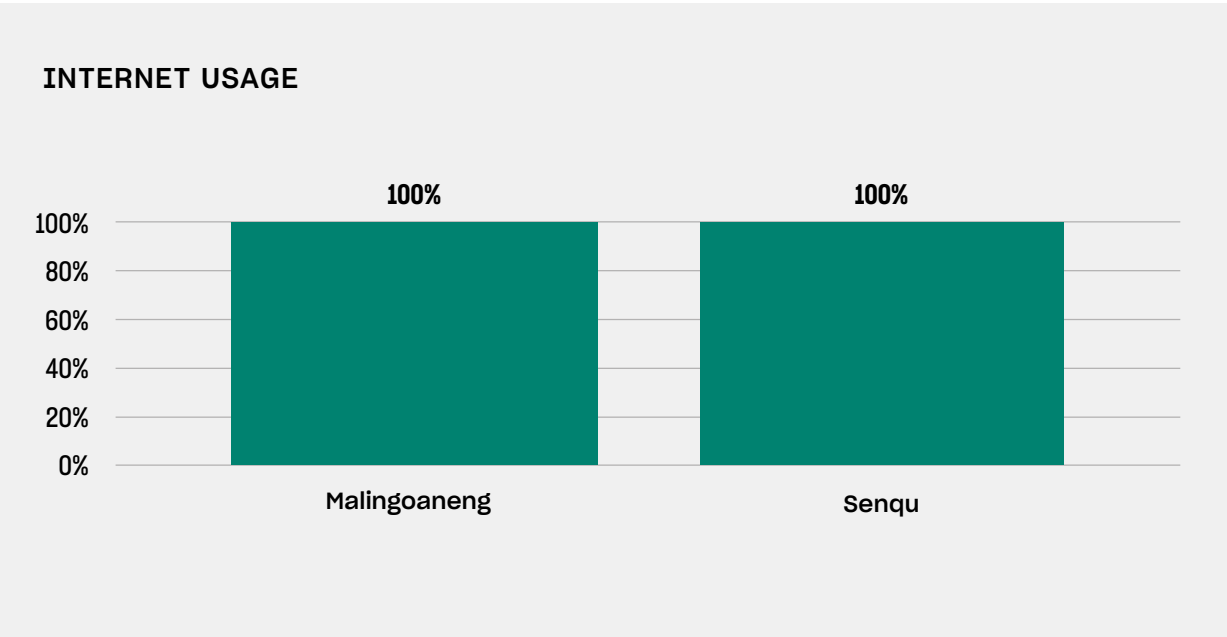
ACCESS TO LIVESTOCK

Malingoaneng and Senqu constituencies reported 58% and 65% of households with access to livestock ownership but on average only 36% of households within Seboche sub-catchment reported to have no livestock.



ACCESS TO INTERNET

Both constituencies within the Khubelu sub-catchment reported 100% internet usage.



The main human use of the catchment includes rangeland use for grazing, horticulture, domestic settlement and mining. An ongoing conflict exists in the sub-catchment over the jurisdiction of grazing areas in the A and B zone between the Principal Chief of Malingoaneng and the grazing associations, whereby there seems to be a lack of understanding of the roles of grazing associations in development areas.



KHUBELU

SECTION B:

Biophysical information



04. Land cover information

This is an afro-alpine grassland zone, with the typical grasses being *Festuca caprina* (Letsiri in Sesotho), and *Merxmuellera disticha* (Moseha) with typical shrubs and woody plants being *Chrysocoma ciliate* (Sehalahala) and *Eric dominans* (Lekhapu). Typical flowering plants include the Red-hot Poker (Leloele-la-loti), Wand Flower (Lethepu) and typical fauna includes the Bearded Vulture (Ntsu-kobokobo), Rock Pigeon (Leeba-la-thaba)

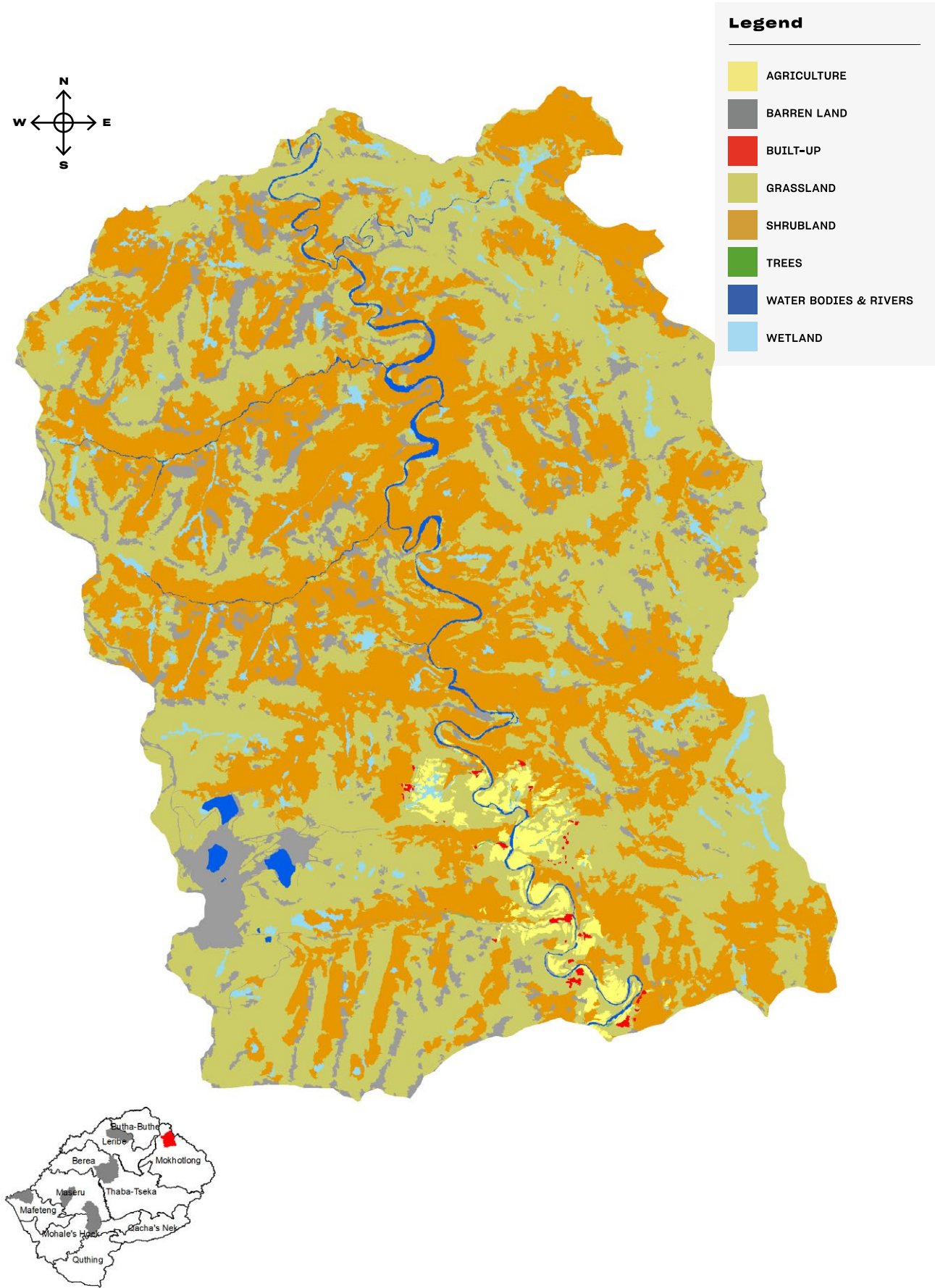
- Grasslands dominate land cover in the Khubelu PSC, followed closely by open shrubland as seen in the table below. It has been observed through available data in this sub-catchment, and others in the highlands, that the pattern of land degradation in this area goes from grassland, degraded grassland and finally shrubland (mostly open).
- Open shrubland mainly consists of the invasive *Chrysocoma ciliate* (Sehalahala), which has quickly replaced most grasses.
- Wetlands and water bodies make up 752 hectares, or about 2.7% of the total area of the sub-catchment, with the Khubelu River (main river) cutting through the sub-catchment.
- About 2% of the land cover consists of rain-fed agriculture on both sloping/ mountainous and plain areas. These areas of agriculture are located very close to rural settlements which also make up a very small percentage (0.13%) also on the same terrain.
- About 70% of Letšeng Diamonds falls within the Khubelu sub-catchment making about 1.14% of the total area of the sub-catchment.
- In conclusion, grasslands and open shrublands are the most dominant types of land cover in the Khubelu PSC, however, mines should also be taken into consideration as they may have a huge impact on the status of land and water in this sub-catchment.

Table 1: An overview of the land cover in the sub-catchment based on land cover database data.

LAND COVER TYPE	LAND COVER NAME	CODE	HA IN SC	% OF SC AREA
BUILT-UP	Urban Areas	UA1	-	0.00%
	Urban Commercial and/or Industrial Areas	UA2	-	0.00%
	Rural Settlements, Plain Areas	RH1	16	0.06%
	Rural Settlements, Sloping and Mountainous Areas	RH2	20	0.07%
AGRICULTURE	Rainfed Agriculture, Plain Areas	HCP	201	0.72%
	Rainfed Agriculture, Sloping & Mountainous Regions	HCSM	233	0.84%
	Rainfed Agriculture, Sheet Erosion	HCER	-	0.00%
	Irrigated Agriculture	HCIR	-	0.00%
	Rainfed Agriculture + Rainfed Orchards	HCT	-	0.00%
TREES	Trees, Needleleaved (closed)	TNL1	-	0.00%
	Trees, Needleleaved (open)	TNL2	-	0.00%
	Trees, Broadleaved (closed)	TBL1	-	0.00%
	Trees, Broadleaved (open)	TBL2	-	0.00%
	Trees, Undifferentiated (closed)	TM1	8	0.03%
	Trees, Undifferentiated (open)	TM2	-	0.0%
	Trees (sparse)	TS	-	0.0%
HYDROLOGY	Large waterbody	WB1	-	0.0%
	Small waterbody	WB2	81	0.29%
	Wetland (perennial and/or seasonal)	WET	752	2.70%
	Riverbank	RB	249	0.89%
GRASSLAND	Shrubland (closed)	SH1	12471	44.79%
	Shrubland (open)	SH2	337	1,21%
SHRUBLAND	Grassland	GR	309	1.11%
	Grassland - Degraded	GRD	10987	39.46%
BARREN LAND	0.00%	BR	1845	6.63%
	0.01%	BA	-	0.0%
	0.04%	BLR	-	0.0%
	0.04%	GU	318	1.14%
	0.12%	MQ	7	7

Note that this information stems from the 2015 Lesotho Land Cover Atlas. An update of the land cover database is foreseen for 2020 and the information presented here will be updated accordingly in the next version.

Khubelu sub-catchment land cover



A photograph of a rural village scene. In the foreground, a group of people, mostly women wearing colorful headscarves and traditional clothing, are sitting on the ground in front of a stone building. The building has a thatched roof and a small window. To the left, there is another stone building with a thatched roof. In the background, there are steep, rocky mountains under a clear blue sky. The ground is dry and dusty with some sparse green grass.

KHUBELU

SECTION C:

Administrative and political information



05. Administrative information

Khubelu sub-catchment is in the Mokhotlong District, with Mr Serame Linake serving as the District Administrator. The District Council Secretary is Mr Obed Morojele who oversees the coordination of all projects within the district. There is only one Principal Chief in this sub-catchment, Chief Qetho Sekonyela of Malingoaneng and one area chief, Mr Kotelo Molapo of Pae-la-itlhatsoa ruling over all nine villages within the sub-catchment. Zones A and B (mostly rangelands and wetland areas) are under the jurisdiction of the Principal Chief and sometimes grazing associations with authorisation from the same office. Zone C is the responsibility of the Area Chief in collaboration with the community councils.

Table 2: Administrative information

DISTRICT	Mokhotlong
NAME OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR	Serame Linake
DISTRICT COUNCIL SECRETARY	Obed Morojele
PRINCIPAL CHIEF AREA	Malingoaneng
NAME OF PRINCIPAL CHIEF	Qetho Sekonyela
DATES FOR PRINCIPAL CHIEF MEETINGS	First Thursday of every month
NAME OF AREA CHIEF	Molapo Kotelo



06. Political information

Two community councils exist within the Khubelu sub-catchment: Seate J01 and Mphokojoane J02. Both councils have three standing committees namely the land committee, social services committee and the finance and planning committee. The Council Secretaries in community councils are permanent staff while the councillors are elected every five years. 75% of councillors directly involved with the Khubelu PSC are female. Each council within this sub-catchment has one electoral division (ED) with two councillors per ED. There are four members of parliament from Malingoaneng #77 and Senqu #78 constituencies, of which three are from Malingoaneng #77 and one from Senqu #78. The ratio of representation of men to women in parliament is 3:1.

Table 3: Political information

CONSTITUENCY	Malingoaneng #77	Senqu #78
NAME OF MP	Mr Serialong Qoo	Ms Tampane Likeleli
POLITICAL PARTY	DC	DC
NAMES AND PARTIES OF MMP MPS IN THE CONSTITUENCY	Mr Kimetso Mathaba (NIP) Mr Sehloho Monatsi (LCD)	None
COUNCIL NAMES/TYPES	Seate J01	Mphokojoane J02
COMMUNITY COUNCIL SECRETARY	Malefu Matolo	Khati Ts'elisehang
COUNCILORS (NAME, GENDER AND POLITICAL PARTY)	Mapakalitha Selia (Female, DC) Matokelo Moabi (female, AD)	Matseko Thapeli (Female, DC) Boipuso Phakisi (Male, ABC)
NAME AND NUMBER OF ED'S	Pae-la-itlhatsoa	Molikaliko
NAME OF CHIEFS IN COUNCIL	Mr Rethabile Lethunya Mr Tumisang Tsoeu	Mrs Masenate Lerotholi Mr Seeiso Lerotholi
ESTABLISHED COUNCIL COMMITTEES	Standing committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> land committee social service finance and planning 	Standing committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> land committee social service finance and planning
MEMBERSHIP IN COUNCIL JOINT COMMITTEES	Nomination is done depending on the subject	Nomination is done depending on the subject
SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETINGS	Second Wednesday every month	Second Wednesday every month

KHUBELU



SECTION D:

History of past and ongoing programmes and projects for land and water management



07. Overview of past and ongoing projects

Most natural resources management programmes in the Mokhotlong district are a collaboration between government and international partner non-governmental organisations. Government departments are engaged in the planning and implementation of interventions in the relevant fields. It would seem the main focus for most projects is the rehabilitation of wetlands and rangelands to enhance the quality of the rural communities' livelihoods and environment, and to ensure access to a sustainable supply of good quality water. Both physical and biological intervention have proven to yield positive results. However, the implementation of physical interventions is challenging as these require intense labour.

NAME OF THE PROJECT	Khubelu Sponges Project (KSP)
BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION	The Khubelu Sponges Project (KSP) has been established under the auspices of the Ministry of Water, Department of Water Affairs-DWA, through a recommendation by the Orange Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM) with the responsibility under SADC for the Protection of Orange-Senqu River Water Sources ('Sponges' Project).
AMOUNT OF FUNDING	M14,000,000
SOURCE OF FUNDING	BMZ (German Cooperation) / UK Aid / Australian Government
INSTITUTION RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION	GIZ
INVOLVED STAKEHOLDERS	Department of Water Affairs - DWA, the Department of Range Resources Management - DRRM, the Department of Soil and Water Conservation - DSWC, the Department of Livestock Services - DLS, the Department of Environment - DoE, Letšeng Diamonds, GOPA worldwide consultants.
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	February 2013 to March 2015. The period was later extended by the donor from April to September 2015
IMPLEMENTATION AREA	Motsheremeli and Phapong wetland - Seate J02
LIST OF ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community mobilisation • Rangeland assessment • Wetland assessment • Range management planning • Community organisation for improved range management • Conservation works in the rangelands • Wetlands protection and rehabilitation • Livestock marketing - a later addition that did not actually take place • Wetland performance measurement • Capturing of lessons learnt
DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS	It has been verified that physical rehabilitation approaches identified for the high altitude and steep slopes of the alpine wetlands have major challenges of cost, application and logistics, but it has also been noted that there is merit in combination with biological grassland rehabilitation approaches, especially at critical degradation scenarios. It has, however, been established that the early stages of degradation can be sufficiently addressed through rangeland application of holistic management, provided it is applied diligently.

DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS	Capacity building for stakeholders through ground verification and study tours for holistic management has built evidence that results are achievable. Positive signs of recovery of the land and changes in livestock were seen. Organisation of stakeholders into a multi-disciplinary (Multi-Stakeholder Approach) team to mastermind implementation aspects of holistic management has potential for cross-pollination of skills, but there are challenges of sustainability, especially financial support.
DESCRIPTION OF CHALLENGES	<p>Participation of stakeholders was found to be a major challenge, firstly because of regular changing of government officers due to transfers and promotions which was unhealthy for the sustainability of the project and secondly because in most cases government officials expect some sort of benefits for participation in meetings, workshops and field work, and without such benefits participation becomes very limited.</p> <p>Implementation of the actual physical structures was challenging because the approval and procurement of services processes were time consuming as well as the actual implementation of these interventions in remote and harsh environmental conditions. Therefore, intervention for rehabilitation took longer than anticipated.</p> <p>Assessment of rangelands and wetlands also proved to be costly since this kind of expertise was outsourced, however the support from stakeholders was remarkable.</p>
PROJECT DOCUMENTS	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1WcUr5GDlrO_Nhwd-4ngX6pUrt2VBv0E6?usp=sharing
PROJECT EVALUATION	<p>Project performance evaluation was outsourced to an external evaluation team (Professor Qalabane Chakela and Mr Thuso Green)</p> <p>Outcomes: The findings of the evaluation are that there are immediate (current) and potential future outcomes of the KSP activities in terms of improvement in range management and related spin-offs.</p> <p>Immediate outcomes include (i) shrubs have been destroyed where high-density grazing was done, (ii) bare patches show signs of being revegetated, (iii) most GAs are active & have grazing plans, (iv) There is greater awareness among chiefs and community councils regarding their roles and participation in range management and (v) GoL departments work cooperatively at district level</p>
CONTACT PERSON	Mr Taole Tesele and Mr Molefe Mokhatla

NAME OF THE PROJECT	Wool and Mohair Promotion Project (WAMPP)
BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION	<p>The Wool and Mohair Promotion Project (WAMPP) has been designed in response to the government's request to provide support to this important aspect of Lesotho's rural economy on which so many of its women and men smallholder producers depend. Lesotho is a country that is almost totally reliant on rain-fed agriculture and in recent years the agricultural economy has suffered from extreme weather conditions – prolonged droughts and damaging flooding.</p> <p>There is an acute awareness in the government and within the communities that climate change is already impacting on the lives of the people of Lesotho (i.e. the Basotho) and threatening their future. It is that the government that requests all donors to support the climate proofing of its agricultural production system. WAMPP is designed to address the issues of rural poverty and food insecurity in the context of climate change and the increasing vulnerability of poor livestock producers. WAMPP is national in scope, however, most of the activities focus on the poorer mountain regions of the country, where the incidence of poverty and food insecurity is highest and agricultural activity is severely restricted due to the lack of cultivable land, the degraded rangelands and the harsh climate. In these mountainous areas sheep and goat herding is the main economic activity and subsistence and food security is essentially derived from the proceeds of selling animals or wool and mohair.</p>
AMOUNT OF FUNDING	USD38.9 million
SOURCE OF FUNDING	USD11.6 million– IFAD loan (with 50% DSF funding), USD 7 million from ASAP, OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) – USD 12 million, LNWGMA – USD 1.5 million and GOL – USD 3.9million.
INSTITUTION RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION	The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS)
INVOLVED STAKEHOLDERS	The Ministry of Forestry and Land Reclamation (MFLR) – Department of Range Resources Management (DRRM), Ministry of Trade and Industry, Cooperatives and Marketing (MTICM), the Ministry of Energy – Lesotho Meteorological Services (LMS)
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	7 years (2015–2021)
IMPLEMENTATION AREA	All 10 administrative districts – Predominantly the highlands.
LIST OF ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing an enabling policy environment particularly in an area of usufruct rights to grazing land, demarcation, and mapping. • Prepare community level rangeland management plans at community level (CGA), and at chiefdom and district level with respect given to traditional authorities' roles. The objective of these plans would be to organise and plan rangeland management including grazing, and thus minimise overgrazing • Piloting holistic rangeland management, with short-duration grazing of a large quantity of animals

LIST OF ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased integration of the grazing and cropping system - introduction of fodder legumes as a crop rotation - increasing both fodder and soil fertility and structure for future grain growing - contributing to both food security and livestock output. • Growing fodder trees and shrubs on contour bunds to reduce soil erosion and increase winter and autumn fodder supplies - thus reducing grazing pressure on the rangeland and allowing re-vegetation of degraded areas. • Restoration of degraded areas through biophysical barriers, live fences, contour-planning of fodder trees, to reduce runoff and increase water infiltration. • Encouraging the construction of simple stonewall shelters in the mountain zone and belts of trees to protect stock from wind and snowstorms • Adjustment in livestock production practices, such as diversification, intensification, and/or integration of pasture management, as well as participatory rangeland management. • Capacity building of livestock keepers focusing on improved animal nutrition and breeding, and facilitating access to improved breeds through a national breeding and an exchange program; • Improved access to animal health drugs and the development of early warning system and creating a better understanding of the impacts of climate change on animal health • Climate hazard early warning systems and other forecasting mechanism that improve livestock management decisions and crisis preparedness. • Climate proofing of existing and new wool shed as appropriate • Improving access to water through water harvesting structures • Strategic reduction of stock numbers - facilitation of culling by supporting local small-scale stock fattening and slaughtering, and encouraging increased trading of live animals for meat through local and international auctions.
DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS	Ongoing
DESCRIPTION OF CHALLENGES	Due to lack of detailed targeting strategy, different sub-components have targeted groups independently from one another, thereby reducing potential synergies between project activities
PROJECT DOCUMENTS	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1LnVa4tac8meaCpbwwIYXA5fW7LQ5Kroy?usp=sharing
PROJECT EVALUATION	
CONTACT PERSON	Mr Thabang Kotsoro

NAME OF THE PROJECT	Letseng-La-Terai Integrated Rangeland Management and Wetlands Rehabilitation Project
BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION	The objective of the project is to increase the availability of water through rehabilitation of the wetlands and management of rangeland; therefore, contributing to flourishing international waters and improving livelihoods gained through production of wool and mohair locally. The project targeted the rangeland and wetlands areas of Letšeng-la-Terai (Tlaeeng Pass to Motšeremeli) in the Khubelu watershed, within the area designated for up-scaling of the Khubelu Sponges project, a SADC supported initiative under trans-boundary water courses programme. These areas are populated with cattle posts that host thousands of sheep and goats. The wetlands in this area are sources to several tributaries of the Orange-Senqu River. Rangeland mismanagement and unsustainable use of wetlands in this area have led to diminishing of water sources for valuable livestock and overall environmental degradation. The project was implemented in the Khubelu catchment.
AMOUNT OF FUNDING	USD30,151.00
SOURCE OF FUNDING	GEF
INSTITUTION RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION	GROW
INVOLVED STAKEHOLDERS	Departments of Water Affairs and Range Resources Management.
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	April 27 - February 2018 (11 months)
IMPLEMENTATION AREA	Seate J01 – Tlaeeng Pass to Motšeremeli in the Khubelu Catchment.
LIST OF ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake wetlands and rangelands vulnerability assessment and scoping exercise • Holistic rangeland management • Mobilise and facilitate a user community and multi-sectoral stakeholders committee for wetlands rehabilitation and governance • Strengthen community leaders, livestock owners' associations, and herders capacity on rangeland management and governance • Advocate by sensitising and mobilising livestock owners to adopt improved breeding stock for Merino and Angora goats • Monitoring and evaluation
DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS	Through the construction of stone lines and gabions about 5 hectares of wetland was restored and run-off velocity reduced resulting in sedimentation behind the structures. A total of 60 herders, who are the strongest link in range resources management and future livestock owners, participated in the rehabilitation activities and received training in sustainable range management, brush control, wetlands rehabilitation and protection and sustainable use. The project proved to be remarkably successful as a smaller grantee - Mofolaneng Grazing Association - started doing similar work in the same watershed. This association participated in the training and demonstration work done through the project, resulting in an advanced trajectory, as compared to peers doing similar work.
PROJECT DOCUMENTS	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19F_eyhux6c_4zdp4MWwGfN3prDv18HNx?usp=sharing
PROJECT EVALUATION	
CONTACT PERSON	Mr Tsietsi Teko – Managing Director

NAME OF THE PROJECT	Application of biological and physical rehabilitation of the rangeland resources of Mofolaneng
BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION	This project is a replication of the Letseng-La-Terai Integrated Rangeland Management and Wetlands Rehabilitation Project and aims to improve the rangeland resources within the upper Khubelu river catchment. The interventions are done to enhance the quality of life for communities and the environment, and to ensure access to sustainable supply of good quality water in the upper Khubelu valley. The pilot project implemented biological and physical rehabilitation of the rangelands of Mots'eremeli and Ramosetsana grazing areas, allocated for utilisation and management to the Mofolaneng Grazing Association through delegation from the Principal Chief of Tlokoeng. Both grazing areas are for grazing by livestock farmers during the winter season and as a strategy to rest the summer grazing for recovery.
AMOUNT OF FUNDING	USD61,638
SOURCE OF FUNDING	UNDP GEFSGP
INSTITUTION RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION	Mofolaneng Grazing Association
INVOLVED STAKEHOLDERS	Departments of Water Affairs and Range Resources Management
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	December 2017 - January 2020 (26 months)
IMPLEMENTATION AREA	Mots'eremeli and Ramosetsana Grazing areas in Seate CC
LIST OF ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rangeland rehabilitation (brush control and erosion control structures construction, high-density grazing, and mobile kraaling of livestock) • Improvement of livestock • Re-introduction of livestock auctions
DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS	<p>Brush control on more than 1 000 hectares of rangeland: physical uprooting of invasive shrubs using matsema. Lesotho Highlands Water Project has provided additional support for extension of the area covered in recognition of the good work done by the grazing association. Critical wetlands in the Khubelu Catchment also rehabilitated</p> <p>Engagement of herders in the brush control programme (Green-A-Cattle post Campaign)</p> <p>Capacity building in leadership, conflict resolution, project management</p> <p>Vaccination and supplementary feeding for livestock</p>
PROJECT DOCUMENTS	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vQw0qtc0BUnf5300CVa9gajvsvpYzSJ6/view?usp=sharing
CONTACT PERSON	Mr Ts'oeu Ts'oeu – Secretary

NAME OF THE PROJECT	TLHANYAKU RANGELAND PILOT REHABILITATION
BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION	<p>Project is a pilot to implement biological rehabilitation of the rangelands allocated for utilisation and management by the Tlhanyaku-Senqu Grazing Association through delegation from the Principal Chief of Khalahali. The grazing area has degraded over the years, reaching a stage where the grazing potential is seriously threatened by rapidly expanding invasion of the Chrysocoma shrub that outcompetes palatable grasses and has seriously reduced grazing capacity. The impact of this invasion is community livelihoods reductions, as their lives are supported by subsistence agriculture – the core of which is livestock rearing. The community has learned about manual uprooting of the shrub to recover the grazing potential, which is supported by the government through provision of food handouts. However, this proves unsustainable, as government resources for the provision of food handouts depend on foreign aid. It is also ineffective as this response does not address the cause of the bush invasion, but its symptoms of reducing fodder. The community sought support to try address the source of degradation. They have learnt about high-density grazing and mobile kraaling that reduces the shrub using their own animals, and does not perpetuate dependency. This will bring a lasting solution which also has the potential to reverse land degradation. The objective of the pilot is to enhance the potential of grazing through reduction of invasive bush and physical rehabilitation of some areas that have developed dongas. The timing is proposed to target two seasons that encourage grass growth, starting in mid-August up to late April of the following year of 2018 and 2019 respectively.</p>
AMOUNT OF FUNDING	USD798,058.35
SOURCE OF FUNDING	UNDP-GEFSGP
INSTITUTION RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION	Tlhanyaku Grazing Association
INVOLVED STAKEHOLDERS	Department of Water Affairs, Department of Range Resources management and Department of Livestock Services
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	November 2017 to December 2019
IMPLEMENTATION AREA	Mphokojoane J02
LIST OF ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake wetlands and rangelands vulnerability assessment and scoping exercise • Holistic rangeland management • Mobilise and facilitate a user community and multi-sectoral stakeholders committee for wetlands rehabilitation and governance • Strengthen community leaders, livestock owners' associations, and herders capacity on rangeland management and governance • Advocate by sensitising and mobilizing livestock owners to adopt improved breeding stock for Merino and Angora goats • Monitoring and evaluation
DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brush control on more than 60 hectares of rangeland: physical uprooting of invasive shrubs and gabion construction using matsema. • Engagement of herders in the brush control programme (Green-A-Cattle post campaign), • Capacity building in leadership, conflict resolution, project management • Peer-to-peer learning exchanges (grantee-to-grantee within Mokhotlong District) an activity that created a healthy dynamic and led to improvement of project delivery • Administration of livestock prophylaxis
PROJECT DOCUMENTS	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vQw0qtc0BUnf5300CVa9gajysvpYzSJ6/view?usp=sharing
CONTACT PERSON	Mr Mpho Mosiuoa

NAME OF THE PROJECT	RESTORING ECOSYSTEMS AND LIVELIHOODS (REAL) 2015 - 2019
BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION	<p>The project invested considerably in promoting sustainable land management (SLM) as a measure to reduce rural poverty and enhance community resilience to climate change among the most vulnerable strata of the Basotho population living in degraded and vulnerable areas of Lesotho. Through this CRS Lesotho's SLM activities were implemented in an integrated manner through a Centre of Excellence (CoE) approach, which is an Ecosystem-based approach (EbA). Through this approach, communities develop and implement context-specific natural resource management (NRM) plans that help in managing ecosystem health sustainably. CRS' NRM activities include soil and water conservation in rangelands, climate-smart agriculture (CSA), plantation of fruit trees along CSA plots, promotion of Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) initiatives, wetland rehabilitation, establishing governance structures, multiple use water services, and growing fodder in climate-smart ways.</p>
AMOUNT OF FUNDING	USD3,474,985
SOURCE OF FUNDING	Private funding from CRS
INSTITUTION RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION	Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Care for Basotho Association (CBA)
INVOLVED STAKEHOLDERS	Department of Water Affairs, WAMPP, Ministry of Forestry, Range and Conservation (MFRC) and Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS), Transformation Resource Centre
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	2015 - 2019 (4years)
IMPLEMENTATION AREA	Nkokamele and Tsoenene in Mokhotlong.
LIST OF ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil and water conservation through integrated watershed management approach • Rangeland management • Agroforestry - CAWT • Homestead gardens and nutrition promotion • SILC • Improvised irrigation system governance (LCCA) • Community based monitoring and evaluation • MUS • Life Skills
DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 81 herder association members trained on NRM/FMNR • 5 herder association with constitution and 6 groups forming association • 3 wetlands demarcated for further rehabilitation/protection • 5 areas rotational grazing plan implementation underway • 8.83 hectares uprooted of invader species • 5 WMCs formed (total = 7) • Encouraging peer learning - exchange visits • 703 members practising saving and lending • 1231 keyhole gardens constructed • 4 tree nurseries • 45 herders practicing bee-keeping • E-learning centre in Mokhotlong
PROJECT DOCUMENTS	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1aCzF1rHk_pSbdvzIrtDmDnel72DfXYTc?usp=sharing
CONTACT PERSON	Mr Mpho Mosiuoa



08. Lessons learnt

Through the experience of past and ongoing projects, it has become clear that community-driven projects are more sustainable.

Successful approaches

- Open dialogue sessions
- Holistic rangeland and wetland management
- Participatory planning of activities
- Implementation of plans through grazing associations
- Participatory monitoring and evaluation
- Formalised ToRs with involved stakeholders
- Capacity building through trainings for both communities and government personnel

Target group or beneficiary

- Communities (youth and women)
- Herders
- Grazing associations
- Community councils
- Government departments

Main geographic focus area

- Khubelu sub-catchment

Major challenges

- Most of the activities were implemented in remote and harsh weather conditions
- Staff turnover due to government promotions

Improvements

- Community involvement in rangeland rehabilitation
- Involvement of the youth and women in environmental issues
- Integrated planning of activities among stakeholders
- Rehabilitation of wetlands and rangelands

KHUBELU



SECTION E:

Conclusions and recommendations



09. Summary of main findings

A. SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Khubelu sub-catchment is a relatively small sub-catchment in the rural areas of Mokhotlong. The population relative to the sub-catchment is even smaller with isolated villages located along the Khubelu River. Only about 30% of the sub-catchment is reachable by car and these are areas next to villages. The sub-catchment is mainly used for rangeland and agriculture.

B. BIOPHYSICAL INFORMATION

The presence of shrubs in sub-catchment rangelands, which ideally should be a grassland, is an indication of land degradation. The Letšeng Diamond is within the sub-catchment area, therefore, the impact of mining on the environment should be taken into account.

C. ADMINISTRATIVE AND POLITICAL INFORMATION

The sub-catchment falls within two community councils with relatively equal areas. This calls for the formation of the Catchment Management Joint Committee (CMJC) for planning purposes and will comprise members selected from each community council. These members will be expected to report back to their respective councils. Administratively, Zones A and B are in the jurisdiction of the Principal Chief while Zone C is in the jurisdiction of the Area Chief.

D. HISTORY OF PAST AND ONGOING PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS FOR LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT

Projects that are driven by communities (grazing associations) seem to have a higher success rate, yield positive results and fosters a sense of ownership.

E. STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

The stakeholder map indicates that there is tension between the Principal chief and most of the stakeholders within the district. These conflicts mainly reside on the issues of governance and power over jurisdiction areas. The Principal Chief allegedly feels threatened that grazing associations are taking over his power in the zones that are under his jurisdiction.

Line ministries in the environmental and natural resources sectors work relatively well with each other and have collaborated on several projects within the district. The fact that some departments which are key to ICM such as the Department of Environment and soon the Department of Rural Water Supply, do not have personnel at their offices may harm ICM. This further emphasises an urgent need for the decentralisation of functions. Government personnel expect allowances for participation in project activities and without this, the level of commitment may be low.



10. Priorities for implementing ICM in Khubelu PSC

1. Resolution of conflict between the Principal Chief and line ministries in the natural resources field by clarifying the role of grazing associations and the resultant benefits.
2. There is urgency in the revival of the District Planning Unit as the success of ICM rides on the full functionality of this unit for planning and implementation purposes, or the establishment of the CPU.
3. Khubelu sub-catchment as it has been established falls within two councils and as a result, a joint committee should be established with member representatives from both councils.
4. MOU between the National ICM and LHDA ICM, to establish a way forward on co-existence in the Khubelu catchment.
5. Intense awareness-raising campaigns for priority communities on ICM topics
6. Development of catchment management plans.

