



renoka

We are a river

Restoring land and water, together

Lesotho's river catchments are vital for livelihoods, the economy and environment

Lesotho is considered the water tower of Southern Africa. It supplies 40 percent of the annual run-off of the Orange-Senqu river despite occupying only three percent of the basin's territory. Lesotho supplies water for agriculture, industry and households across the basin area, which is one of Africa's most important economic centres. Domestically, aquatic ecosystems in Lesotho are directly responsible for 22% of GDP and 30% of employment.

However, Lesotho's river catchments are facing severe land degradation, which is an existential threat to water security for Lesotho or the Orange-Senqu basin and to the livelihoods of the rural population in the catchments of Lesotho. Healthy catchment and wetland ecosystems are required to absorb rainfall and release water gradually into rivers and streams. Degraded catchments, in turn, worsen flood and drought events, soil erosion and siltation.

To combat these challenges, the Kingdom of Lesotho has embarked on a national movement for integrated catchment under the name **ReNOKA ('we are a river')**. ReNOKA represents a network of individuals, communities and professionals that are stronger together, fluid and growing, dedicated to the restoration of water, land, and the long-term prosperity of all communities.



For more information

Website: www.renoka.org
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Engage with us on social media:

f Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/renokamovement/>

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ReNOKA vision, objectives and principles

The vision for ReNOKA is: “We believe that benefits of integrated catchment management in Lesotho for today’s and future generations can only be achieved through coordinated action and cooperation that empower and support partnerships between all stakeholders. The integrated, sustainable and risk-informed management of Lesotho’s catchment areas will lead to the conservation of biodiversity, land, and water resources and advance climate resilience. It will contribute to improved urban and rural livelihoods, water quality and economic development in the country, the Orange-Senqu basin and the entire Southern African region.”

ReNOKA objectives: The population of Lesotho benefits from water availability and quality for all domestic, rural, industrial, or agricultural users; sustainable water and land management; the reduction and reversal of land degradation and soil erosion; and contributions to advance the resilience to climate change impacts.

ReNOKA principles: Cooperation and coordinated action among government bodies, private sector, civil society, communities and international partners to promote coherence and synergies in the implementation of policies and practices. It shall increase civic participation, guarantee equal and balanced use of resources and strengthen transparent and empowering governance.

Change that ReNOKA aims to achieve



Catchment management and rehabilitation

Restoration of degraded watersheds through emergency rehabilitation measures and the implementation of catchment management plans. These plans address the human causes of degradation such as unsustainable land use patterns, advance climate resilience and provide livelihood opportunities for local communities.



Policy and institutional governance

Relevant policies and legislation are updated and harmonized to ensure effective management of catchment areas. Guidelines for catchment planning and for the implementation of soil and water management, as well as clearly defined institutional mandates, ensure a coherent and integrated approach across institutions.



Financing arrangements

Suitable financing mechanisms ensure that funding is available for the implementation of catchment development and rehabilitation measures at the right levels of Government. Investments from international public and private institutions complement national funding arrangements.



Skills and knowledge for practitioners

Resource users and professionals have the skills they need to contribute to sustainable management of land, water and environmental resources. This ranges from practical trainings on innovative agricultural methods to dedicated graduate courses at the National University of Lesotho.



Social and behaviour change communication

Reducing catchment degradation depends on citizen awareness and adoption of more sustainable behaviours among land water users. This is promoted through targeted communication approaches and interventions ground in behavioural insights.



Data and research

Data and evidence inform decision making, learning and innovation for integrated catchment management. The aim is that better data leads to the creation of evidence on effective approaches and methodologies, optimizing the allocation of resources to those catchment areas and local communities that are successful in implementing integrated catchment management.



Climate resilience

The impacts of climate change in Lesotho manifest in increased rainfall variability and extreme climate events such as droughts, floods and heatwaves. ReNOKA focuses on a risk-informed approach to catchment management that advance resilience by systematically considering climate risks in the catchment management process and fostering nature-based solutions for adaptation to climate change.



Transboundary cooperation

Lesotho is a major contributor to the Orange-Senqu basin, which also includes South Africa, Botswana and Namibia. Catchment restoration in Lesotho benefits all riparian states, which provides the rationale for transboundary cooperation on integrated catchment management under the auspices of the Orange-Senqu River Commission.