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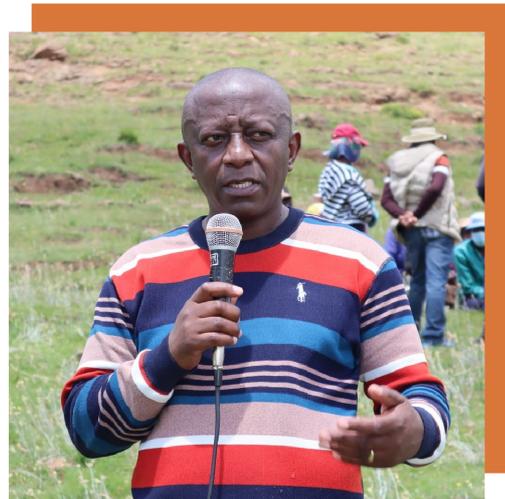
Newsletter



Dear friends and partners of ReNOKA

I am proud to share with you the inaugural edition of the ReNOKA newsletter. We want to keep you informed about what is happening in our national programme and citizen movement for Integrated Catchment Management. ReNOKA aims for the protection and conservation of water resources, preservation of Lesotho's wetlands and ecosystems, reduction of soil erosion and desertification, rejuvenation of agricultural lands, and improvement of the resilience of Basotho and their livelihoods in the face of climate change.

In this first edition, we put the spotlight on the [ReNOKA highlights in the last year](#) and inform you about recent updates and upcoming events.



Makomoreng Fanana, speaking in Ha Koporale on the Senqunyane River, February 2022. ▲

The ReNOKA Newsletter will be published quarterly. Share the newsletter and encourage others to sign up. With effective communication, we can restore land and water, together!

INTERNATIONAL



▲ Lesotho government delegates attend the WWF, March 2022.

Lesotho takes catchment best practice to the global stage

ReNOKA and Lesotho’s government joined a high-level southern African delegation at the 9th World Water Forum (WWF) in Senegal in March, where they shared best practice in catchment rehabilitation and management.

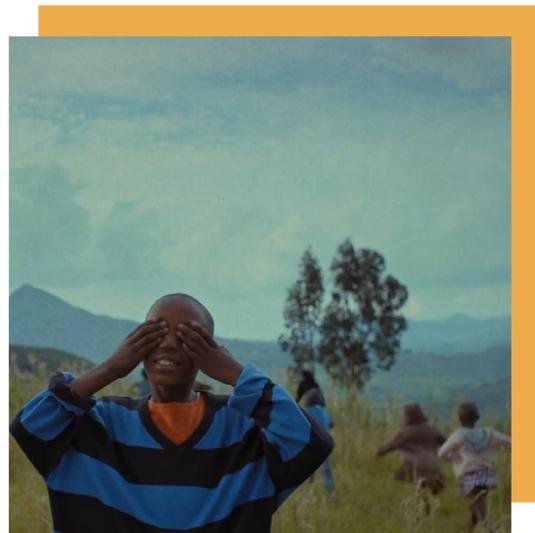
The event in the capital Dakar was held under the theme Water Security for Peace and Development, the first time in its 25-year history that WWF met on African soil. [Read more.](#)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Solar-powered movie sparks community discussion about land, water and heritage

Hundreds of Basotho celebrated World Water Day with the local premier of award-winning 2019 Sesotho film drama, *‘This is not a burial, it’s a resurrection.’*

The screening was used by ReNOKA to engage local communities on their role as custodians for Lesotho’s precious water and land resources. [Read more.](#)



▲ Scene from *‘This is not a burial, it’s a resurrection.’*

PUBLICITY

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Germany's international TV channel Deutsche Well has included ReNOKA in a TV feature about the state of Lesotho's water.



Scene from the Deutsche Welle Documentary about water from Lesotho and ReNOKA efforts to restore catchments | ReNOKA

[Click to watch the video](#)

SPOTLIGHT



▲ Mahali Bulane in Likhethla-Mafeteng, 2021.

Community collaborates to build local irrigation dam

ReNOKA celebrates women who are contributing to restoration of our natural resources in catchment areas

Subsistence vegetable farmer Me' Mahali Bulane from Likhethla-Mafeteng in south western Lesotho has taken the initiative and worked with her community to build a new dam on her farm. The water it stores is now used for irrigation and washing clothes.

Bulane is involved in many community initiatives and charity projects, and is the founder of the

farmers, contributes to the businesses of each. [Read more.](#)

FIELD VISITS

A tale of two watersheds

A field trip by a ReNOKA team has demonstrated the visible impact of watershed rehabilitation.

GIZ regional technical advisor, Ntate Tesele Taole, an expert in resource conservation and development, showed how the Ha-Khabo watershed - in the Hlotse sub-catchment in the Upper Mohokare Catchment - is more successful in holding water compared to the neighbouring Ha-Lehloba watershed, which has deep gullies caused erosion. [Read more.](#)



Land degradation witnessed during field visits.

COLLABORATION



▲ The National University of Lesotho

Learning partnership to boost education and research

The National University of Lesotho (NUL) has formed a strategic partnership with German development agency GIZ and the ICM Coordination Unit, aiming to strengthen education, science and research.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in September 2021 will guide collaboration with the

in the Kingdom. [Read more.](#)

UNITED NATIONS

Lesotho PM takes water and climate issues to the United Nations

World leaders have heard Lesotho Prime Minister, Dr Moeketsi Majoro, link poverty and livelihoods directly to climate change and land degradation, with Integrated Catchment Management cited as a key mitigation measure. [Read more.](#)



▲ The Right Honourable the Prime Minister, Dr Moeketsi Majoro, speaking on Integrated Catchment Management at the UN, September 2021

ReNOKA NEWS



▲ One of the planning meetings where joint activities for all stakeholders were debated and agreed.

ReNOKA’s roadmap to catchment health

ReNOKA’s operational plan was adopted in February 2022. It provides the first detailed guide to activities of government departments, civil society, the private sector, regional institutions and international partners to advance climate resilience and the restoration of land, water and livelihoods in Lesotho’s catchment areas. [Read more.](#)

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Study launched under ReNOKA

Reviving the indigenous knowledge that Basotho have carried for generations is a powerful tool to address catchment degradation and improve climate resilience – this was one of the key messages coming out of the presentation of a joint research study by the National University of Lesotho (NUL) and the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC).

[Read more.](#)



The study was launched at an event in Maseru, March 2022 ▲

Legal and policy priorities for Integrated Catchment Management in Lesotho

The findings of a policy review of Lesotho's ICM framework were released in March 2022. ReNOKA stakeholders gathered to hear the results of work by legal and policy consultants, and to discuss next steps for effective governance of land and water resources. [Read more.](#)

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

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Ambassador Amadei and Ambassador designate Peschke visit Ha-Moitšupeli and the Puete wetland, Maseru District, March 2022.

Ambassadors see catchment rehabilitation up close

European Union (EU) Ambassador to Lesotho Paola Amadei and German Ambassador designate Andreas Peschke, got to see some of the catchment rehabilitation projects they support in March 2022.

They visited Ha-Moitšupeli and the adjacent Puete wetland in Maseru, where rehabilitation is part of the national programme to advance Integrated Catchment Management in Lesotho and the Orange-Senqu River Basin. [Read more.](#)

VIDEOS

View interviews given by ReNOKA colleagues:

- [Video Interview: International Womens Day 2022 | ReNOKA](#)
- [Video Interview: Mme Sebatso Sedia on World Wetlands Day | ReNOKA](#)
- [Video Interview: Ntate Khotso Mathafeng on World Wetlands Day | ReNOKA](#)



DID YOU KNOW?

With only 3% of the basin area, Lesotho contributes over 40% of the Orange-Senqu River Basin's annual run-off.

ReNOKA RESOURCES

Selected reports from ReNOKA.org:

- [Mainstreaming Indigenous Knowledge Systems in ICM in Lesotho](#)
- [ReNOKA 10 Highlits of 2021](#)
- [ReNOKA Operational Plan 2022](#)

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recommendations)

- [ReNOKA Factsheet](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

26 April

ReNOKA presentation to Zambian Parliament Study Tour and Lesotho Parliamentary Natural Resources Committee

Lesotho Parliament, 11 am

29 April

Herding for livelihoods and the environment: ReNOKA engagement event with Herders

Semonkong, full day event

12 May

Launch of the research study: Meta Analysis of interventions for sustainable natural resources management in Lesotho from 1970-2020

Victoria Hotel, Maseru, 9am (TBC)

May

Study Tour for Lesotho Senior officials to Kenya and Tanzania

Dates TBC

6 - 10 June

ReNOKA High Level Annual Event & World Environment Day Watershed Clean Up Campaign

Leribe, TBC

21 - 22 June

European Development Days

Brussels

23 August - 1 September

World Water Week

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For more information

Visit the ReNOKA website at www.renoka.org

For more information on World Water Day 2022, see:

<https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/waterday>

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Newsletter



Dear friends and partners of ReNOKA

Our movement to restore land and water grows! The second edition of the ReNOKA Newsletter is here, and we have some exciting updates from the last quarter to share with you. Among them, a high-level Government of Lesotho delegation undertook an international learning journey on integrated water catchment management.

Closer to home, ReNOKA has collaborated to provide grants for watershed management activities to local NGOs. To mark World Environment Day, Principal Chief of Mokhotlong, Chief Lerotholi Mathealira Seeiso, joined more than 300 people in the Khubelu sub-catchment to participate in a youth-led clean-up campaign. A profile on another ReNOKA champion, Principal Chief of



Makomoreng Fanana speaking at the Ecosystem Services Workshop in Maseru, August 2022.

We strive to share updates on our donors, development and government partners, and beneficiaries. Please get in touch if you have any stories we could include in future editions.

In September, the Government of Lesotho and ReNOKA is hosting the 10th biennial SADC Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue. We could not be more humbled to host the SADC Secretariat and our other participants, which include youth representatives, women's groups, civil society and the private sector. The Dialogue will include differing opinions on the correct steps forward, but we come together because of our joint dedication to conserving the environment which sustains us.

others to sign up. With effective communication, we can restore land and water, together!

Makomoreng Fanana

National ICM Coordinator

SPOTLIGHT: CHIEF SEEISO BERENG SEEISO

Chief Seeiso Bereng Seeiso discussed the importance of Integrated Catchment Management with us. Make sure to read our full conversation with him [here](#).

Chief Seeiso Bereng Seeiso, younger brother of King Letsie III, is the Principal Chief of Matsieng and a member of the Senate of Lesotho - where he served as Senate President from 2015 - 2017.

Over the course of his career, he has been engaged in several projects and programmes dedicated to natural resource management in Lesotho.

Today he identifies as a devoted follower of and advocate for the ReNOKA movement, believing that the Basotho will be able to economically uplift themselves through the Integrated Catchment Management programme.



▲ Chief Seeiso Bereng Seeiso, ReNOKA Champion.

"ReNOKA is a much-needed intervention for raising awareness about natural resources, but also for restoring the Basotho's parity in land and water use."

ReNOKA to host biennial SADC Dialogue

The ReNOKA movement, on behalf of the Government of Lesotho, is delighted to announce the 10th SADC Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue, which is being held in and around Maseru from 5 - 7 September 2022.

Among the objectives of the Dialogue is to identify strategies to bolster regional productive capacities for water, food and energy security - and ecosystem resilience - in the SADC region.



Participants will comprise senior officials from the water, energy and food sectors from all 16 SADC member states, regional and pan-African institutions, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders.

SADC member states and their partners are working to achieve inclusive and sustainable industrial transformation. All 16 members have acknowledged that this can only be done collaboratively, and through learning from one another.

The event will include seven dialogue sessions covering a range of topics, such as demonstrating water/energy/food nexus approaches in the region and the role of water in regional value chains, and include practical case studies and lessons learned from regional projects.

ReNOKA will share more information during the event next week. The press release for the event is available [here](#). The event concept note and agenda are available [here](#).

ReNOKA integrated water resource management (IWRM) learning journey

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senior officers from the Ministries of Agriculture & Food Security, Development Planning, Energy & Meteorology, Forestry, Range & Soil Conservation, Local Government & Chieftainship Affairs, and Water focused on best IWRM practice in policy, planning, data management, stakeholder relations, setting up institutions, and financing. [Read more.](#)



▲ Lesotho officials attend site visits in Nyandarua County, Kenya (left), and along the Usa River (right).

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

European Development Days 2022

ReNOKA joined the European Development Days (EDD) 2022 from 21-22 June, Europe's leading forum on international partnerships in Brussels, Belgium.

His Majesty, King Letsie III of Lesotho, delivered a speech during the high-profile Opening Ceremony, which was attended by various dignitaries including the Heads of State for Ghana, Mauritania, Cabo Verde, Namibia, Belize and the Republic of Congo. During the event, keynote addresses were made outlining various perspectives on the role of the EU Global Gateway in international and domestic contexts. His Majesty's full speech can be viewed [here](#).



▲ His Majesty, King Letsie III, speaks during the Opening Ceremony of EDD, June 2022.

The ReNOKA stand provided information on the restoration of Lesotho's catchment management areas for a water secure future in southern Africa through ecosystems-based adaptation.

ReNOKA awards Community Based Organisations with ICM Grants

ReNOKA, in collaboration with Catholic Relief Services Lesotho, awarded grants to nine community-based organisations to implement specialised and niche watershed management activities in the six priority sub-catchments. [Read more.](#)

ReNOKA NEWS

ReNOKA facilitates the first professional course on ICM

In an effort to build human capacity for ICM among Lesotho's natural resources management professionals, WaterNet - as part of ReNOKA - facilitated the first of a series of 12 planned professional courses from 29 June to 1 July 2022. Participants for the course were from the ICM implementation partners in Lesotho. [Read more.](#)

ReNOKA commemorates World Environmental Day 2022

The ReNOKA movement facilitated a series of youth-led clean-up campaigns in June and July as part of the commemorative activities for World Environment Day on 5 June 2022.

Activities took place in the six priority sub-catchments of Hlotse (Hlotse), Khubelu (Mokhotlong), Senqunyane (Thaba Tseka), Makhalaneng (Maseru), Maletsunyane (Semonkong) and Likhetla (Mafeteng). The goal of this campaign was to engage 1,000 students and youth, supported by the general public, and collect a total of five tonnes of litter. [Read more.](#)



Volunteers in Khubelu, Likhetla and Maletsunyane participate in clean-up activities. ▲

ReNOKA is excited to present a short animated video highlighting the national programme's implementation goals and objectives.



[Click to watch video](#)

NEW PARTNERSHIPS

Enhancing the climate resilience of the Metolong Dam System

To address climate challenges facing the Metolong Dam System, the Ministry of Water in Lesotho has established a partnership with the Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management to foster risk-informed development and the protection of public investments and services.

[Read more.](#)



Various stakeholders pictured at the project inception workshop in Thaba-Bosiu on 25 August 2022. ▲

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▲ Workshop participants visit the Puete watershed in the Makhalaneng Priority Sub Catchment Area on 18 August 2022.

ecosystem services for ReNOKA

With the support of the World Bank's PROGREEN initiative, ReNOKA held a 4-day workshop for technical and non-technical experts involved in ICM to discuss how the Ecosystem Services Approach can be incorporated in Lesotho.

[Read more.](#)



DID YOU KNOW?

95% of all water demand in the Orange-Senqu Basin is from South Africa.

UPCOMING & RECENT EVENTS

23 August - 1 September

World Water Week

Stockholm

5 - 7 September

10th SADC Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue

Maseru

6 - 18 November

2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27)

Sharm El Sheikh

For more information

Visit the ReNOKA website at www.renoka.org

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Newsletter



SADC compliments Lesotho on progress with Integrated Catchment Management

Unlocking the potential of sustainable water resources development in contributing to regional integration, poverty eradication and socio-economic development in the SADC region

At the 10th SADC Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue held in Maseru from 5-7 September, the representatives from the SADC member states complimented the efforts made by the Government of Lesotho in conserving and restoring land and water through ReNOKA, its Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) programme.

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Secretary in the Ministry of Water, Lisema Lekhoana said the SADC region is faced with several urgent challenges, including a lack of clean water and climate change-related flooding.

"As 15% of Basotho in rural areas face acute food insecurity, it is clear that we can no longer delay tackling this issue as a region. It is time to mobilise the WEF nexus, unlock entrepreneurial capabilities, build climate resilience and the integrity of our ecosystems."

Lisema Lekhoana
Principal Secretary, Government of Lesotho,
Ministry of Water




"The Southern African region continues to face water challenges regarding access and quality. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that water scarcity affects 1 in 3 people in the African region. The situation is being exacerbated by population growth and urbanisation. These problems are compounded by periodic floods and droughts."

When addressing the Dialogue, the European Union Ambassador to the Kingdom of Lesotho, Her Excellency Paola Amadei, explained that agriculture is the main source of livelihood for 60% of the population in sub-Saharan Africa. She said there is a broad consensus to adopt sustainable methods of preserving the environment that many people rely on to ensure food security.



 **10th SADC Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue** 

"Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for 60% of the population in sub-Saharan Africa. There is broad consensus to adopt sustainable methods of preserving the environment that so many rely on to ensure food security."

Paola Amadei
EU Ambassador to the Kingdom of Lesotho



SADC Director of Infrastructure, Mapolao Mokoena, speaking during an excursion at the Makhalaneng Priority Sub-Catchment said, "We are very happy with the programme that is happening in this area to try to restore and rehabilitate the sub-catchment. We believe that with the interventions that we are proposing today, and those that are already in place, we should be able to build back and try to get what we used to have – great area, plenty of food and water."

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To showcase ICM work in Lesotho, the ICM Coordination Unit organised site visits to Metolong Dam, Makhalaneng (Puete Wetland) and Likhethla Sub-Catchment as part of the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue.

Similarly to Mokoena, the Executive Secretary of the Okavango River Basin, Phera Ramoeli was impressed by Lesotho's efforts in ICM and said the intervention of Lesotho youth at the 10th Dialogue showed strong engagement in ICM in the country. "The youth highlighted that there are a lot of important activities and projects that can be influenced by them, particularly because of their innovative thinking," he said.

Several youth entrepreneurs and leaders shared their experiences during the Dialogue, which included: addressing land scarcity through aquaponics and hydroponics, thereby accelerating Africa's transition to sustainability and self-sufficiency; and reducing wood fuel consumption and carbon emissions through renewable energy stoves which provide clean cooking and house lighting for people in Lesotho.

The Dialogue theme was 'Bolstering regional productive capacities for water, energy, food security and ecosystem resilience to achieve inclusive and sustainable industrial transformation,' and it was hosted by the Government of Lesotho through the Ministry of Water and ReNOKA.

The 10th SADC Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue was funded by the European Union-supported SADC WEF Nexus Dialogue Project and the "Support to Integrated Catchment Management (ICM)" Project in Lesotho, co-financed by the EU and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).



As a thank you to delegates who attended, we would like to share an [image library](#) of the Dialogue.

For more information

Visit the ReNOKA website at www.renoka.org

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Newsletter



SEASON'S GREETINGS

from ReNOKA



Dear friends and partners of ReNOKA

With the third issue of the ReNOKA newsletter also being the last one of 2022, I can't help but look back at this year and be proud of how far this movement has come!

As Lesotho's flagship integrated catchment management programme, ReNOKA aims for the protection and conservation of water resources, preservation of Lesotho's wetlands and ecosystems, reduction of soil erosion and desertification, rejuvenation of agricultural lands, and improvement of the resilience of Basotho and their livelihoods in the face of climate change.

In our efforts to achieve this, in



Makomoreng Fanana speaking at the Ecosystem Services Workshop in Maseru, August 2022.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work of our team, support of our partners and the involvement and commitment of the Basotho people to keep this project

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March, featured in an international documentary, hosted the SADC Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on water, energy and food in Lesotho, and took our ICM learnings to COP27 in Egypt in November. These are just some of the international highlights of the year.

As the festive season gets into full swing, on behalf of ReNOKA, I would like to wish you all a wonderful holiday and prosperous new year.

Makomoreng Fanana

National ICM Coordinator

INTERNATIONAL

ReNOKA participates in developing solutions to the planet's greatest water-related challenges at World Water Week



ReNOKA
representatives at
World Water Week
2022 in Stockholm,
Sweden, August
2022.

A delegation of ReNOKA representatives joined global water and sanitation changemakers at World Water Week 2022 in Stockholm from 23 August – 1 September to discuss and explore sustainable solutions to restoring, conserving and protecting water.

To attend the world's leading conference on global water issues, the delegation was joined by His Majesty King Letsie III who was a special guest at the High-Level Panel on water investments. He delivered a keynote message, speaking about ICM approaches in Lesotho and calling on world leaders to invest more in preserving water. ReNOKA's intention in attending was to institutionalise partnerships developing from these engagements with the potential to contribute to ICM implementation in Lesotho, lead to socio-economic development and improve adaptation to climate change.

Key learnings from World Water Week include...[READ MORE](#)

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ReNOKA
representatives at
COP27 in Egypt,
November 2022.

In November, Egypt hosted the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) which concluded with a historic agreement for a fund to help vulnerable countries cope with climate change. At the proceedings of the conference, ReNOKA convened a side event, “Enhancing climate resilience in mountain ecosystems – lessons from the Lesotho Water Towers” on Tuesday, 15 November and showcased a risk-informed approach to integrated catchment management. [READ MORE.](#)

A team of technical experts and other professionals from the Lesotho government and the implementing partners of ReNOKA embarked on a learning experience programme to Zambia from 24-28 October 2022. The trip was intended to exchange ideas and experiences on ICM between Lesotho and Zambia and showcase how ICM stakeholders can work across multiple sectors and levels of government to reconcile regional, national and local priorities to reflect a diversity of approaches, histories and governance arrangements.

[READ MORE.](#)



Technical experts and implementing partners at a site in Zambia, October 2022.

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

ICM stakeholders vow to work together to restore Lesotho's land and water resources

During the ReNOKA Operational Planning process - a two-day workshop at the end of November in Maseru, multiple stakeholders involved in ICM in Lesotho renewed their commitment to the ReNOKA movement. They undertook to continue to identify sustainability initiatives and to accelerate collaborations for restoring land and water resources in Lesotho.

The stakeholders from NGOs, the public and private sectors, made this commitment after coming together to discuss the issues of natural resource management.

Recognising the imperative for an effective, collective responsibility to respond to the urgent threats to land and water, the commitment also includes the stakeholders' deployment of innovative and collaborative interventions with sustainable, positive impacts on supply chains and value chains.

[READ MORE.](#)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Farmers in Senqunyane Priority Sub Catchment have found a way out of their struggles and they are now increasing their competitiveness and strengthening their produce of potatoes and cabbage. ReNOKA facilitated the discussions between Ha-Tsi'u farmers and Maluti Fresh Produce Market which subsequently led to an agreement between the two sides which will see the farmers harvest, package and sell directly to the market.



Packaged fresh produce at Maluti Fresh Produce Market. ▲

To provide comprehensive support to farmers, ReNOKA's partner, the Catholic Relief Services, trained farmers on savings and internal lending, as well as marketing of agricultural produce. They encouraged farmers to establish savings groups and focus on marketing. [READ MORE.](#)

Herders in Thaba-Tseka affirm full support towards range management

Over 80 herders in the Senqunyane Priority Sub-Catchment in Thaba-Tseka have pledged their full commitment and support towards protecting the rangeland areas after participating in range management awareness campaigns at Ha-Dinizulu, Ha-Ts'iu and Ha-Koporala. The discussions with the herders and the community members touched on how improving the rangelands could provide productive land for farming, livestock and foraging.



Herders at a meeting with ReNOKA representatives. ▲

As custodians and major users of water and land in Lesotho, the engagement of herders in natural resource management contributes significantly to the management and protection of land and water, particularly the rangelands that the herders sometimes turn to as grazing areas for livestock. [READ MORE.](#)

ReNOKA NEWS

Unpacking land and water management issues at Ha-Khabo

In its efforts to build a national movement with various stakeholders, ReNOKA hosted 18 journalists and reporters from 14 local and international print and

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Ha-Khabo is one of the priority intervention areas where high levels of soil erosion and land degradation are evident and being rehabilitated under ReNOKA. [READ MORE.](#)



Members of the media take part in a site demonstration at Ha-Khabo in Hlotse Priority Sub-Catchment, November 2022.

South Africa's water minister upbeat about 'progress' on Lesotho Highlands Water Project

Water and sanitation minister Senzo Mchunu met Lesotho's minister of natural resources Mhloimi Moleko in Maseru on Friday to discuss the implementation of phase two of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. The binational infrastructure project between the countries involves the construction of tunnels and dams to transfer water from the Orange—Senqu River in the highlands to South Africa and to use water delivery system to hydro-electrically power Lesotho. [READ MORE.](#)



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ReNOKA plans to work even harder in 2023. Will you come along for the journey?

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