

24.04.2023

# FOR MEDIA RELEASE



**His Majesty King Letsie III**

"Today I have seen and I have heard from the members of the community that they appreciate the positive impact that ReNOKA has brought in their livelihoods".  
On the photo below is His Majesty assessing the stone lines that have been put in place to slow down water runoff and decrease the rate of soil erosion



## **His Majesty King Letsie III assesses Integrated Catchment Management implementation progress at Ha-Khabo, Leribe**

*Community-based initiatives under ReNOKA are starting to bear fruits*

His Majesty King Letsie III embarked on a guided tour in Ha-Khabo, Leribe on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023 to examine the progress on the implementation of Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) measures in the area by the ReNOKA programme.

ICM refers to the management of land and water resources without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems and the environment.

Officially launched in May 2021 at Ha-Koporale in Thaba-Tseka, ReNOKA is a multi-sectoral initiative of the Government of Lesotho for restoring and rehabilitating degraded watersheds and land resources in Lesotho. The programme is implemented with the financial support of the European Union and of the German Government.

The visit to Ha-Khabo afforded His Majesty the opportunity to appreciate the tangible impacts on how ReNOKA programme is working with local communities at all levels to rehabilitate degraded land and water resources in the area.

Some of the work done with the community of Ha-Khabo includes the rehabilitation of gullies through drift and gabions, which are minimising the velocity of water runoff.

Present at the excursion were also the Right Honourable the Prime Minister Samuel Ntsokoane Matekane, Cabinet Ministers, notably the Minister of Natural Resources Hon. Mhloimi Moleko, and Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Hon. Limpho Tau. Apart from representatives of the EU Delegation and of the German Embassy, members of the National Assembly, local authorities including the Principal Chief of Leribe, Chief Bolokoe Joel Motšoene and communities also attended.

His Majesty applauded ReNOKA for its community participatory approach of involving the community at all levels. He further recommended ReNOKA's approach for all development projects for long-term sustainability.

The Prime Minister Ntsokoane Matekane also expressed that the Government of Lesotho is working tirelessly to protect and preserve the natural resources in the country and ReNOKA is one of the programmes aimed to achieve that.

The German Ambassador to Lesotho His Excellency Andreas Peschke said Lesotho's most valuable resource, water is under stress and it is important to protect it by being resilient to climate change impacts. He stated that Germany is pleased that this cooperation is strong and continues to grow through various programmes.

*"It is worth noting that Lesotho's most valuable resource is under stress, challenging food security and survival of many subsistence farmers in Lesotho. It calls for a strong community engagement and inter-ministerial coordination that brings on board all relevant stakeholders including academia and private sectors", he said.*

*"ReNOKA responds to the national emergency of degrading land and water resources which the Prime Minister highlighted in his inaugural speech", he added.*

Speaking at the same event, the European Union Ambassador to Lesotho Her Excellency Paola Amadei emphasized that the management of water, land and soil resources in Lesotho is critical to improve agricultural productivity, food security, climate resilience, and access to clean and sustainable water and energy.



From left: Prime Minister, EU and German Ambassadors

"For this reason, Team Europe – the EU and its 27 member states – and the German government as part of its bilateral programme are proud to support ReNOKA – Lesotho's transformative National Programme," she said. Full Speech [here](#).

Ha Khabo, located in the Upper Mohokare catchment area (Hlotse priority sub-catchment), is one of the hotspot areas which were identified under ReNOKA in 2020 as the immediate areas that needed intervention. This is a very arable land with plenty of wetlands which are the source of Hlotse River. However, the rate of degradation around this area is threatening the livelihoods of the communities, with high soil erosion leading to gullies. The area covers about 35 821 hectares and within it, there are community watershed teams from 13 villages.



His Majesty interacts with the community



His Majesty being briefed about drifts and gabions

As a measure to curb soil erosion, the silt traps have been set in place by the roadside drains to reduce the speed of water runoff and trap silt, thus reducing soil erosion. Erosion blankets have also been placed in one of the local fields to encourage vegetation growth. Now with time, the erosion blankets will decompose, thereby fertilizing the soil and improving vegetation in that area. This then encourages an improved food production.

## Background

The Government of Lesotho is currently implementing the national programme for Integrated Catchment Management (ICM). It is aimed at rehabilitating the degraded watersheds across Lesotho and putting in place mitigating efforts that will halt any further degradation of Lesotho's catchment areas to improve the health of the headwaters of the Orange-Senqu River Basin.

The ReNOKA movement is about inspiring communities to look after their land while reminding them that the water that nourishes them, and the countries downstream, depends on their actions.



All media enquiries should be forwarded to:

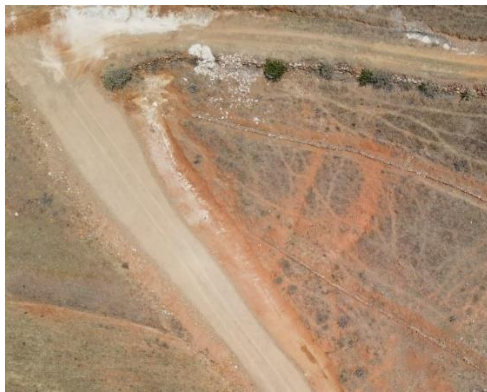
**Ms. Mphonyane Mohlomi**  
**Public Relations Officer - ReNOKA**  
 E: [mohlomimphonyane@gmail.com](mailto:mohlomimphonyane@gmail.com)  
 T: +266 63102000  
 T: +266 63102000

**Mr. Makomoreng Fanana**  
**National Coordinator ICM- ReNOKA**  
 E: [Makomoreng.fanana@renoka.org](mailto:Makomoreng.fanana@renoka.org)  
 T: +266 63079965

-END-

### Photo gallery

#### Field rehabilitation at Ha-Khabo



Barren hillside above road



Treatment with erosion blankets



Two months after installation

#### Road rehabilitation at Ha-Khabo



Before construction of the road



During construction



Ha Khabo road rehabilitation

**Disclaimer:** 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 Integrated Catchment Management Unit and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union or the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)