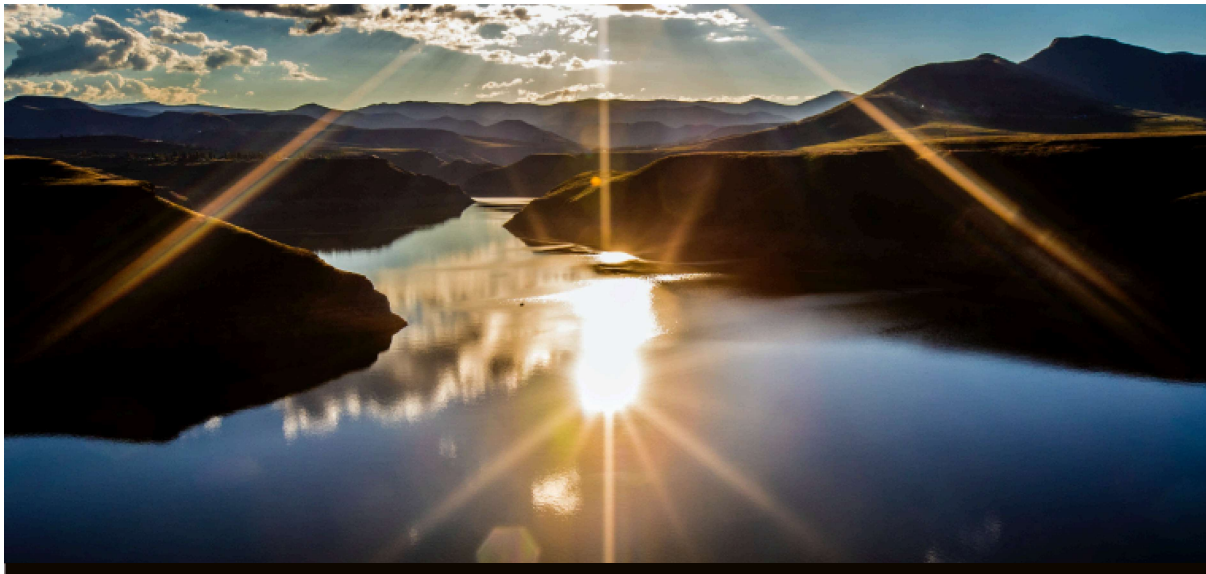




Newsletter



Dear friends and partners of ReNOKA

It brings us great pleasure to share the fourth edition of the ReNOKA Newsletter with you. This newsletter is our first for 2023, and it's full of good news not only for the ReNOKA movement but for the people of Lesotho and the wider Orange-Senqu River Basin as a whole.

As part of our efforts to prepare all stakeholders for the handover following 2024, we are drafting a Compendium that will be a theoretical and practical guide for integrated catchment management, and encompass our goals for the protection and conservation of water resources, preservation of Lesotho's wetlands and ecosystems, reduction of soil erosion, and the rejuvenation of agricultural lands. The Compendium will be launched later this May and will be a living document that will help ensure that the work that we have started can live on and reach greater heights in the hands of our partners, stakeholders and the public.

The launch of the Compendium and of the Land Cover Atlas are just two of the exciting activities that we have lined up for the upcoming months. Furthermore

management areas, scale our interventions to new sub-catchments, facilitate the financing of Community council Integrated Catchment Management action plans and ramp up the implementation of restoration measures.

We have had a successful start to 2023; we have briefed Parliament on the progress we have made in land and water restoration and we invited His Majesty King Letsie III to visit one of our implementation site in Leribe to interact with the communities. Moreover, we have also worked with the Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management and the GIZ to conduct a climate risk assessment of the Metolong dam system and the Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment for Upper Mohokare and Makhaleng, respectively. In partnership with WaterNet, Masters of Science in Integrated Catchment and Water Resources Management scholarships are being offered under ReNOKA to young Basotho at the National University of Lesotho.

ReNOKA also joined the commemorations of the World Water Day and, with the celebrations held in Maseru, introduced the movement to more Basotho which is something we will continue to do in the coming weeks and months. In this regard, we are happy to announce that the support to ReNOKA is in the process of being extended towards 2025. Thank you once again for the support ReNOKA has received from the Government of Lesotho, the European Union as well as from Government of Germany. It is our hope that you continue the support and join us on the journey.

Makomoreng Fanana

National ICM Coordinator



NATIONAL

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

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

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

Present at the excursion were also the Right Honourable the Prime Minister Samuel Ntsokoane Matekane, the Minister of Natural Resources Hon. Mohlomi

Embassy, H.E Andreas Peschke. [Read more.](#)



ReNOKA briefs Parliament on progress made in ICM

ReNOKA briefed the Parliament Portfolio Committee on Natural Resources and the House of Senate on the status of work in the implementation of land and water restoration.

Hon. Mootsi Lehata of the Portfolio Committee on Natural Resources applauded ReNOKA for bringing the committee up to speed on the work that is being carried out on the ground.

He further suggested a field visit to the sites where rehabilitation measures are being carried out in order to understand land degradation issues that the communities are faced with [Read more.](#)



ReNOKA was featured in a news bulletin on Lesotho Television on 22 March 2023 during the commemoration of World Water Day 2023. We also featured in the World Water Day 2023 supplement that was run by The Reporter Newspaper (24–30th March 2023).



World Water Day 2023 Accelerating Change

AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

Come join the movement! ReNOKA raising awareness.

ReNOKA engaged with different stakeholders throughout the month of March in its continued efforts to raise awareness of the importance of our land and water resources, while also calling for the protection of these resources.

Joining initiatives such as the commemoration of World Water Day and the Moshoeshoe Walk, among others, we made strides in highlighting the significant role that the Orange-Senqu River Basin plays in the lives of Basotho and all those living around it. [Read more.](#)




Stone bunds put in place at Ha-Lenonyane.

COLLABORATION



Enhancing climate resilience of critical public infrastructure – case study on the Metolong dam system

Under the umbrella of ReNOKA, the Government of Lesotho, in cooperation with the Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM) has engaged in the process to assess the prevailing and future climate risks to the Metolong Dam infrastructure system, and its relevant up and downstream components, including its reservoir and catchment, as well as water treatment plant and its water distribution system. [Read more.](#)

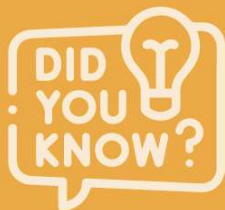


Scholarships advert for
**Master of Science in Integrated Catchment and
Water Resources Management (ICWRM)**
At the National University of Lesotho
2023 Intake

ReNOKA offers scholarships to Basotho on ICRWM

ReNOKA is offering scholarships to 15 Basotho to study Master of Science in Integrated Catchment and Water Resources Management (ICRWM) at the National University of Lesotho.

The scholarships, being offered through ReNOKA's implementing partner, WaterNet, aim to build the human capacity of Basotho in natural resource management for effective sustainable natural resource management in Lesotho. [Read more.](#)



The Orange-Senqu River is such an important natural resource for Southern Africa that it directly impacts 15 million people who rely on it for water, farming and hydro power.

ReNOKA RESOURCES

Selected reports from ReNOKA.org:

- [Mainstreaming Indigenous Knowledge Systems in ICM in Lesotho](#)

- [Orange-Senqu River Basin Stewardship Learning Journey \(Report\)](#)
- [External Policy Review for ICM in Lesotho \(Main findings and recommendations\)](#)
- [ReNOKA Factsheet](#)

For more information

Visit the ReNOKA website at www.renoka.org



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Newsletter



Dear friends and partners of ReNOKA

In this final month of 2023, we are pleased to take a moment to reflect on the significant progress the ReNOKA Movement has made recently. We've been working determinedly to promote sustainable integrated catchment management in Lesotho, and we're excited to share some of our accomplishments with you.

A cornerstone of our movement is to empower Basotho with the knowledge and skills needed for effective natural resource management. To this end, we have conducted a series of workshops, training sessions and exhibitions, engaged communities and shared knowledge and expertise. We are particularly proud to announce our successful partnership with the National University of Lesotho, resulting in the establishment of a Master of Science in Integrated Catchment and Water Resource Management.

Lesotho's land and water resources are vital to the country's economy and the wellbeing of its citizens, and preserving them means we also preserve our communities' way of life. In this newsletter, you will learn how we are achieving this by promoting sustainable agricultural supply chains which restore and protect

Market tomorrow Saturday, 9th December, at Alliance Francaise de Maseru.

While we've experienced challenges, the past months have also been marked by significant achievements, including the approval of the first 12 community council ICM action plans, facilitation of international internships for young professionals from Lesotho, and the commencement of the development of the Integrated Catchment Management and Development Plans (ICMDPs) for Upper Mohokare and Makhaleng.

None of our work, and accomplishments, would have been possible without the invaluable support of our new and longstanding donors, funders, as well as our development and government partners, and all members of the Movement. To each of you, we extend our deepest gratitude. We would also like to personally thank the people of Lesotho for graciously welcoming us into their communities and walking alongside us on this journey.

As we look ahead, we are excited to continue our work for Lesotho's climate resilience and sustainable development. We remain committed to working with communities, government, and other partners to ensure that future generations have access to the clean water, fertile land and the healthy ecosystems they need to thrive.

Makomoreng Fanana

National ICM Coordinator



INTERNATIONAL

Lesotho takes to the stage at World Water Week 2023

The Government of Lesotho delivered a presentation on Watering the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) during World Water Week 2023 in Stockholm to showcase Lesotho's approaches to advance climate resilience.

The National ICM Coordinator, Makomoreng Fanana, led a presentation on how the country is integrating climate change in the planning phases of ICM. He unpacked what Lesotho aims to achieve through the six change areas of ReNOKA, including harmonisation of ICM policies, catchment management, data collection and monitoring.

World Water Week is the annual global conference on water issues, and is attended by international professionals in the water sector from the public and private sector, civil society and academia. [Read more.](#)



NATIONAL

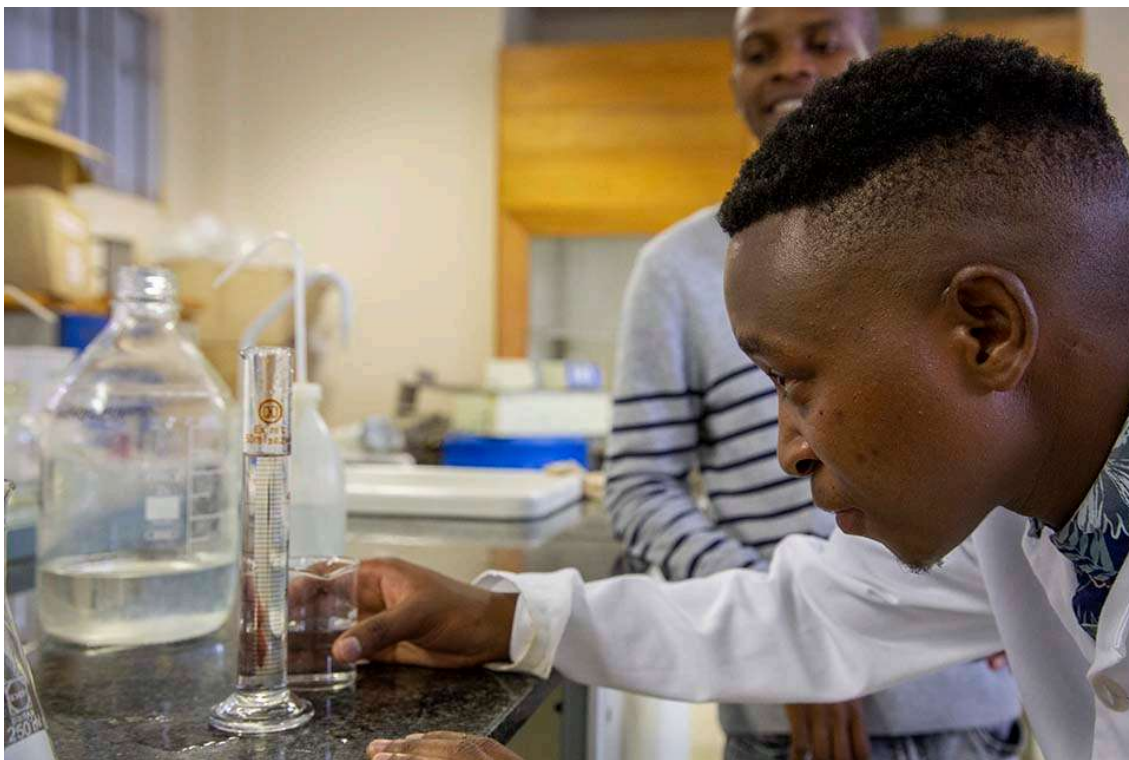
New MSc course at NUL set to build capacity in managing land and water resources of Lesotho

ReNOKA and the National University of Lesotho (NUL), with the support of WaterNet Trust, have successfully supported the development and commencement of the Master of Science in Integrated Catchment and Water Resources Management (MSc in ICWRM) programme.

The four-semester full-time programme will provide students with the in-depth knowledge and practical skills needed to succeed in effectively contributing to the progress of Lesotho's integrated catchment management. ReNOKA has sponsored fifteen full and five partial scholarships in the first intake of students enrolled for the programme. [Read more.](#)



Local scientists' land use study supports research-driven and risk-informed decision making



In order to aid land preservation and restoration efforts, five local scientists from the NUL carried out a study on how historical uses of land affect its health.

Lesotho is a unique country with unique challenges, and while some research

rangelands. Understanding the rangelands is a critical prerequisite to finding sustainable solutions to land degradation. This research aims to build on past research while also integrating indigenous methods of land and water preservation. [Read more.](#)

AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

'Source to Mouth' transboundary campaign gathers hundreds for river cleanup in Maseru

Partners, volunteers, and 200 students from four schools in Maseru and Berea gathered on 22 September to clean Mohokare River in Ha-Thetsane, Lesia Maseru. The effort was part of the Orange-Senqu 'Source to Mouth' transboundary campaign for primary school students in Lesotho created to raise awareness about plastic pollution and its impact on the health of rivers, water quality, wildlife and the communities who depend on these water resources.

The second leg of this activity is scheduled to take place in Namibia in 2024. [Read more.](#)



Exhibition celebrates Lesotho's natural resources and raises awareness on the threats facing them

Catchments exhibition at the Metolong Dam Visitor's Centre. The exhibition celebrates the importance of natural resources in Lesotho and sought to raise public awareness of the challenges threatening their sustainability.



The exhibition is being hosted alongside a photographic showcase by the European Union in Lesotho (EU), featuring the works of local photographers. The two exhibitions, which are open to the public, give visitors an opportunity to appreciate the beauty of Lesotho and learn more about ICM; specifically the strides being made in conserving and preserving Lesotho's natural resources and environment. Over 5000 people have visited the exhibition up to date.

Doors open from 9 AM to 3 PM (Mondays - Fridays) and 9:30 AM to 2 PM (Saturdays - Sundays) and it's FREE! [Read more.](#)

COLLABORATION

Farmers' Market initiative increasing access to high quality local products and creating income for local farmers and handcrafters

ReNOKA and Alliance Française de Maseru officially launched a monthly Farmers' Market on 30 September. A key aim of the Market is to raise awareness that sustainable agricultural practices and sustainable resources management meet a strong demand from urban consumers. As such, sustainable production techniques are a way to diversify and increase farmer income through value addition. Even though the market is a small-scale activity, it aims to inspire all Basotho to produce local quality products.

The Market, supported by the EU and Germany, will take place on the last Saturday of every month, and will see local farmers and handcrafters selling a variety of locally produced fresh produce and crafts directly to consumers. [Read more.](#)



Wetskills Water Challenges Lesotho 2023

Between 30 September – 12 October, ReNOKA partnered with the Department of Water Affairs Lesotho and the Wetskills Foundation for the implementation of The Wetskills Water Challenge.

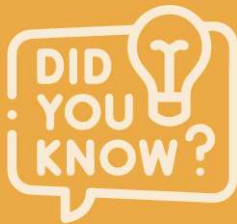
The Challenges, financially supported by the EU and the German government, saw 23 participants from Lesotho, South Africa, Zimbabwe and the Netherlands collaborating on issues relating to water challenges, including sustainable NRM measures, water reuse efficiency, transboundary water cooperation, and waste management's impact on water resources.

The Water Footprint Compensation, aiming to enhance soil erosion control methods from 2018, was also discussed.

Protecting public investments and services – Climate resilience of Ha Ramarothole solar power

On 24 October, different stakeholders met at a consultation workshop on Integrated Catchment Management for the catchment area of Ts'akholo at Ha Ramarathole **Solar** Plant in Mafeteng. The meeting resulted in tangible outcomes for the collaboration between ReNOKA and Lesotho Electricity Regeneration Company (LEGCO) to tackle the challenge of land degradation threatening the solar plant. Big dongas have emerged at the solar plant and are therefore putting this public's investment at risk.

can be used to deliver high-quality electricity services quickly and affordably.



The Orange-Senqu River is such an important natural resource for Southern Africa that it directly impacts 15 million people who rely on it for water, farming and hydro power.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Farmers' Market Christmas edition

Saturday 9th December from 11AM - 5 PM at [Alliance Française de Maseru](#)

Make sure you do not miss the exciting opportunity to make your Christmas memorable with locally produced goods.

We can't wait for you to join us!
#FarmersMarket

For more information

Visit the ReNOKA website at www.renoka.org



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