



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

February 03, 2017

Dear LDCF/SCCF Council Member,

I am writing to notify you that we have today posted on the GEF's website at www.TheGEF.org, a Project Identification Form (PIF) for a full-sized project proposal from AfDB entitled ***Lesotho: Climate Change Adaptation for Sustainable Rural Water Supply in Lowlands Lesotho (GEF ID: 8014)***, for funding under the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF). This PIF has been posted for Council approval by mail. Council Members are invited to review the PIF and to submit their comments (in Word file) to the GEF Secretariat's program coordination registry at gcoordination@TheGEF.org by March 03, 2017.

Following the streamlined procedures for processing LDCF proposals, Council members are invited to approve the following decision:

*The LDCF/SCCF Council reviewed the PIF entitled **Lesotho: Climate Change Adaptation for Sustainable Rural Water Supply in Lowlands Lesotho (GEF ID: 8014)** (LDCF Project Grant \$4,416,210) (Agency Fee \$419,539), posted on February 03, 2017 and approves it on a no objection basis subject to the comments submitted to the Secretariat by March 03, 2017.*

The Council finds that the PIF (i) is, or would be, consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures, and (ii) maybe endorsed by the CEO for final approval by the GEF Agency, provided that the final project document fully incorporates and addresses the Council's and the STAP reviewer's comments on the PIF, and that the CEO confirms that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF/LDCF/SCCF policies and procedures.

The final project document will be posted on the GEF website for information after CEO endorsement. If the GEF CEO determines that there has been a major change to the present scope and approach since PIF approval, the final project document shall be posted on the web for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement.

In accordance with this decision, if the Secretariat has not heard from you in writing by March 03, 2017 we will assume that you approve the PIF.

Sincerely,

Naoko Ishii
Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson

Copy to: Country Operational Focal Point, Alternates, GEF Agencies, STAP, Trustee



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF).

PROJECT TYPE: FULL SIZED PROJECT

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FUND

For more information about GEF, visit TheGEF.org

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Climate Change Adaptation for Sustainable Rural Water Supply in Lowlands Lesotho		
Country(ies):	Lesotho	GEF Project ID: ¹	
GEF Agency(ies):	AfDB	GEF Agency Project ID:	
Other Executing Partner(s):		Submission Date:	
GEF Focal Area(s):	Climate Change	Project Duration (Months)	48 months
Integrated Approach Pilot			
Name of parent program:	[if applicable]	Agency Fee (\$)	419,539

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES²:

Objectives/Programs (Focal Areas, Integrated Approach Pilot, Corporate Programs)	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
		GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
CCA-1 – Reduce the vulnerability of people, livelihoods, physical assets and natural systems to the adverse effects of climate change	LDCF	3,453,000	12,740,000
CCA-2 – Strengthen institutional and technical capacities for effective climate change adaptation	LDCF	963,210	4,510,000
Total Project Cost		4,416,210	17,250,000

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: To improve the livelihoods of the communities of South Western Lowlands facing challenges caused by climate change through better water resource management					
Project Component	Financing Type ³	Project Outcomes	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
				GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
Identifying Climate Risks and Reducing vulnerability to climate change in the water sector for communities in the project area	Investment	-Climate change risks for the targeted communities are identified and documented. - Adaptation technologies for water supply are identified, acquired and disseminated including the development and implementation of an integrated catchment management plan for the larger Metolong catchment - Monitoring and early warning systems in place (with the participation of the Lesotho Meteorological Services) to mitigate risks	LDCF	2,780,000	11,600,000

¹ Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC and to be entered by Agency in subsequent document submissions.

² When completing Table A, refer to the GEF Website, [Focal Area Results Framework](#) which is an Excerpt from [GEF-6 Programming Directions](#).

³ Financing type can be either investment or technical assistance.

Capacity Development for Improved Water Resource Management	TA	- Strengthened institutional capacity for better water resources management - Strengthened institutional capacity to cope with projected impact of climate change on water as well as for in house management, monitoring and evaluation of climate change adaptation projects - Best practices for adaptation (including gender specific measures) are identified	LDCF	715,000	2,000,000
Awareness Raising of Local Communities on Climate Change Adaptation	TA	- Strengthened awareness of the local communities on climate change and its impact on the natural resources within the project area - Enhanced ownership of the proposed adaptation structure, plans, technologies and measures by the communities through a participatory approach - Adaptation technologies are adopted by the institutions and communities	LDCF	509,000	1,600,000
Knowledge Management and Monitoring and Evaluation	TA	- Proactive and structured Monitoring and Evaluation put in place to document lessons learnt throughout and after project implementation. - Lessons learnt are captured and appropriately disseminated	LDCF	202,210	500,000
Subtotal				4,206,210	15,700,000
Project Management Cost (PMC) ⁴				210,000	1,550,000
Total Project Cost				4,416,210	17,250,000

If Multi-Trust Fund project: PMC in this table should be the total and enter trust fund PMC breakdown here ()

C. INDICATIVE SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE, IF AVAILABLE

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
GEF Agency	AfDB	Loans	9,890,000
GEF Agency	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative	Grant	4,200,000
Donor Agency	World Bank	Loan	1,210,000
Recipient Government	Government of Lesotho	In kind	1,950,000
Total Co-financing			17,250,000

D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS ^{a)}

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee (b) ^{b)}	Total (c)=a+b
							0
							0
							0
Total GEF Resources					0	0	0

⁴ For GEF Project Financing up to \$2 million, PMC could be up to 10% of the subtotal; above \$2 million, PMC could be up to 5% of the subtotal. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project financing amount in Table D below.

- a) No need to fill this table if it is a single Agency, single Trust Fund, single focal area and single country project.
b) Refer to the [Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies](#).

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)⁵

Is Project Preparation Grant requested? **Yes** ~~No~~ If no, skip item E.

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), TRUST FUND, COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					PPG (a)	Agency Fee ⁶ (b)	Total c = a + b
AfDB	LDCF	Lesotho	CC		150,000	14,250	164,250
							0
Total PPG Amount					150,000	14,250	164,250

F. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS⁷

Provide the expected project targets as appropriate.

Corporate Results	Replenishment Targets	Project Targets
1. Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares	N/A
2. Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	120 million hectares under sustainable land management	N/A
3. Promotion of collective management of transboundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services	Water-food-ecosystems security and conjunctive management of surface and groundwater in at least 10 freshwater basins;	N/A
	20% of globally over-exploited fisheries (by volume) moved to more sustainable levels	N/A
4. Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	750 million tons of CO _{2e} mitigated (include both direct and indirect)	N/A
5. Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern	Disposal of 80,000 tons of POPs (PCB, obsolete pesticides)	N/A
	Reduction of 1000 tons of Mercury	N/A
	Phase-out of 303.44 tons of ODP (HCFC)	N/A
6. Enhance capacity of countries to implement MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and mainstream into national and sub-national policy, planning financial and legal frameworks	Development and sectoral planning frameworks integrate measurable targets drawn from the MEAs in at least 10 countries	N/A
	Functional environmental information systems are established to support decision-making in at least 10 countries	N/A

⁵ PPG requested amount is determined by the size of the GEF Project Financing (PF) as follows: Up to \$50k for PF up to \$1 mil; \$100k for PF up to \$3 mil; \$150k for PF up to \$6 mil; \$200k for PF up to \$10 mil; and \$300k for PF above \$10m. On an exceptional basis, PPG amount may differ upon detailed discussion and justification with the GEFSEC.

⁶ PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the Agency fee over the GEF Project Financing amount requested.

⁷ Provide those indicator values in this table to the extent applicable to your proposed project. Progress in programming against these targets for the projects per the *Corporate Results Framework* in the [GEF-6 Programming Directions](#), will be aggregated and reported during mid-term and at the conclusion of the replenishment period.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW

A.1. Project Description. Briefly describe: 1) the global environmental problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed; 2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects, 3) the proposed alternative scenario, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project, 4) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing; 5) global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF); and 6) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

A1.1 - The global environmental problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed

Lesotho has a fragile mountainous ecosystem prone to natural disasters, drought and desertification, which make it particularly vulnerable to current climate variability and future impacts of climate change. The effects of global warming on climate change have begun to materialize in a more palpable way over the last decade. While affecting all spheres of life, climate change more directly affects water resources management (WRM), wherein the most constant effect is the increase in variability in quantity and quality magnitudes, in terms of more regular and intense droughts and floods. This worsens conditions in areas already subject to either or both of these extremities. The South Western Lowlands (SWL) of Lesotho constitute a distinct agro-climatic and livelihood zone (ACLZ) characterized particularly by a low average rainfall, a characteristic shared with the Senqu Valley. It is an area approximately bounded by the Southern Phuthiatsana in the District of Maseru in the north, by the lower boundary of the Foothills to the west (approximately the 1800m contour) and the watershed of the Makhaleng with the Senqu. The National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) has identified that this AEZ is the most likely to be hardest hit by the effects of climate change on water resources and has proposed a set of actions primarily addressing issues of improved access to water supplies.

The citizens of Lesotho, and in particular in rural areas, have only limited knowledge of these expected long term climate change impacts, and are generally unaware of even short term climate scenarios and weather warnings (such as seasonal forecasts and warnings of weather hazards such as heavy rain or hail). Nor are the majority of people aware of, or having the capacity to implement, alternative, climate resilient strategies such as resilient livestock management strategies, improved crop varieties etc. These limitations combined with a general widespread poverty and limited availability of surplus capital for investments in adaptation, are the main root causes and barriers for vulnerability in Lesotho.

A1.2 - The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

The overall objective of the project is to improve the livelihoods of the communities of South Western Lowlands facing challenges caused by climate change through better water resource management. More specifically, the project will be implemented in parallel with Lesotho: Lowlands Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project (LRWSSP).

The LRWSSP in the Districts of Berea and Maseru along routes of the Metolong Dam Water Supply Project primary and secondary pipes consists of basic rural water and sanitation infrastructure, environmental health support for communities in the project area, as well as capacity building and project management. The project is expected to be implemented over a 48 months beginning December 2013 at a cost of \$17,250,000 million.

The project will benefit some 65,000 inhabitants of the area, who are currently served with inadequate levels of safe water supply and sanitation, as a result of growth in demand since the last expansion of services as well as government and private institutions such as schools, health centers, local courts, lodges, rest houses, etc. serving neighboring rural villages. In terms of shortfall in per capita supply, proximity to water points and condition of facilities, the estimated percentage of supply is 25% equivalent to a population of 16,250. Residents of the areas currently have to contend with intermittent supplies from under capacity boreholes, with hand pumps, under

capacity reticulation from springs or mechanized boreholes. The project components and activities are described below:

A. Water Supply Infra-structure

- Construction 200 km of trunk and distribution pipelines
- 27 x 20m³ Local storage reservoirs and Break Pressure tanks
- 450 Communal Water Points
- 1,500 Private Connections to households and institutions.
- Design and Supervision Services

B. Environmental Health, Sanitation and Hygiene promotion

- Promotion and Education on Health and Hygiene in water and sanitation, including gender sensitive IEC materials
- Construction 36 public sanitation facilities at institutions, schools and health centres
- Construction of 280 VIPs for vulnerable Households, (e.g. women and orphan headed households)

C. Institutional Support and Capacity Building

- Development and Implementation of Operational Strategies for cost recovery communication, private operator engagement, financing sanitation,
- Updating of RWS Implementation Guidelines (gender sensitive implementation guideline)
- Gender Sensitive Community Sensitization and Stakeholder mobilization
- Training of VWHC and Coordination Committees
- Strengthening sector gender informed M&E by institutionalizing GIS planning tools and databases within Director for Department of Rural Water Supply (DRWS) and its district offices

D. Project Management and Eng. Services

- Project oversight and management
- Monitoring and reporting system

The project is expected to contribute to the overall well-being of the population through a guaranteed supply of adequate quantities of drinking water at reasonable distance to households, minimize the risks of spread of water related disease, and reduce the burden of collection of water to women and girls, and members of households of vulnerable families. The beneficiaries will participate in implementation through participatory planning and monitoring of the project through the village leadership structures and through shouldering the cost of individual connections. The LDCF project components will enhance the sustainability of the LRWSSP through activities such as identifying and addressing climate risks, improving readiness of communities and institutions and sharing experiences accumulated through the project implementation.

In terms of sector policy and strategy, the landmark study of Water Resources Management Policy and Strategy (WRMPS) was completed in 1996 and the country has prepared 3 revisions of the National Policy, the most recent being that dated 2007, that enjoys the support of most stakeholders. The policy embodies the Dublin principles for integrated water management and spells out strategic principles within 7 policy statements covering a broad spectrum of water resources management issues.

An interim sector strategy was adopted in 2010 and is being implemented with the recently finalized Long Term Strategy due to take over as main guiding document. The strategy implements principles of the National Water Policy and addresses the implications of the reforms introduced in the revision of the water Act of 2008. The Water Act of 2008 also represents a landmark point which introduced the integrated approach to water management (IWRM).

The overall water and sanitation sector development is aligned with the national Vision 2020 of achieving national goals of universal coverage of water and sanitation service as outlined in the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP).

In addition to the LDCF project, other projects have provided or are in the pipeline enhancement of adaptation capacity of the country in the similar context. These include the following:

Donor	Sub Sectoral Focus	Name of Project
African Water Facility	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS)	RWSS Investment Plan
European Commission	Policy RWSS Urban Water Supply and Sanitation (UWSS) Water Resources	Sector Budget Support Masowe Waste Water Project Three towns water supply School sanitation
World Bank	Policy RWSS UWSS Water Resources	Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement (project I) Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement (Project II) Lesotho Highland Water Project
USA/ Millennium Challenge Corporation	RWSS UWSS Water Resources	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project Metolong Dam Water Supply Program Urban and Peri-urban Water Network Wetlands restoration and Conservation Project
Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa	UWSS	Metolong Dam Water Supply Program
Saudi Fund	UWSS	Metolong Dam Water Supply Program
AbuDabi Fund	UWSS	Metolong Dam Water Supply Program
Kuwait Fund	UWSS	Metolong Dam Water Supply Program
OPEC	UWSS	Metolong Dam Water Supply Program
European Investment Bank	UWSS	Metolong Dam Water Supply Program
South Africa	UWSS Water supply/ Hydropower	Metolong Dam Water Supply Program Lesotho Highland Development Project
Ireland	RWSS	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project
Switzerland	RWSS	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project

A1.3 - Proposed alternative scenario, and expected outcomes and components of the project

Underlying the overall objectives is the fact that water is a basic need required for sustenance of life, and that access to safe and adequate water is necessary for health and wellbeing and for productive activities and overall economic development. With the added threat of climate change, the adaptation capacity of the stakeholders in Lesotho must be enhanced to face the challenges ahead.

The alternative scenario will improve livelihoods of the communities of the south Western Lowlands facing challenges related to climate change with a particular emphasis on better resources management.

Climate change simulations for Lesotho showing reduced precipitations. With dry conditions for most of the year and the resultant lower sub-surface flow would lead to dry springs and wells, lower water tables and higher borehole costs, reduced yields of many water sources, and severe water stress, particularly for the rural population who mainly depend on ground water. The project therefore assist the community to adapt to climate change impacts in that it provides sufficient surface storage and reticulation infrastructure to ensure reliability of water resources.

A1.4 - Incremental cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline the LDCF and co-financing

The proposed climate change adaptation project consists of the following components:

- Identifying Climate Risks and Reducing vulnerability to climate change in the water sector for communities in the project area
- Capacity Development for Improved Water Resource Management
- Awareness Raising of Local Communities on Climate Change Adaptation
- Knowledge Management and Monitoring and Evaluation

Component 1: Identifying Climate Risks and Reducing Vulnerability to Climate Change in the Water Sector for Communities in the Project Area

In order to provide water supply services resilient to climate change and variability, this component will focus on deployment of appropriate adaptation options. Primary beneficiaries of the component are the communities that do not have direct supply from the Metolong Dam Water Supply Program and are reliant on water source vulnerable to climate change and variability. Activities include assessment of likely climate change impact, identification and installation of climate resilient water supply technology – for example boreholes of appropriate depth, rainwater harvesting and diversification of resources. Activities also include implementation of the integrated catchment management plan to be prepared under component 2. This includes identification of wetlands in the vicinity of the project area and activities related to wetlands rehabilitation and conservation as appropriate.

It will also include installation of hydro-meteorological stations for long-term monitoring to collect quality information and for early warning. This component will be carried out with the active collaboration of the Lesotho Meteorological Services. With the flood/drought prone areas identified, subsequent early warning systems will be developed and deployed. It is also recommended that the efficiency of the existing water supply be analyzed and necessary corrective actions be undertaken under to project (e.g. localization and fixing of water leaks in the pipelines)

Component 2: Capacity Development for Improved Water Resource Management

The proposed project will establish the current needs of the policy/ regulatory framework with regards to climate change and adaptation activities related to adaptation in the water sector. This will eventually lead to the formulation of more adequate institutional structure for water resource management in light of increased uncertainty due to climate change.

This will entail the following activities:

- Integrate climate risks into policies, regulations and planning guidelines related to water resource management. This includes revision and update of: (i) Strategy and framework for bringing-on-board private/community operators; (ii) Strategy for financing rural sanitation services; and (iii) Comprehensive rural water supply and sanitation implementation guidelines/ manual.
- Development of an integrated catchment management plan for the larger Metolong catchment in line with catchment management activities as outlined in the Long Term Water and Sanitation Strategy.
- Institutional capacity development to evaluate water related risks, to plan for contingencies and to communicate effectively to relevant communities.
- Institutional capacity development to allow continuous review and improvement of adaptation strategy.
- Development of the in-house capacity to manage climate change adaptation activities as well as for monitoring and evaluation activities;
- Mainstream climate change adaptation in operation rule of Metolong Dam.

Component 3: Awareness Raising of Local Communities on Climate Change Adaptation

A number of activities will be performed to sensitize the local communities on the effects of climate change and its direct impact on the socio-economic activities of the communities living in the project area. To start with a community-based economic valuation of natural resources within the project area will be conducted, as an indirect strategy for building awareness of Local Communities on Climate Change Adaptation such as increasing awareness of the community on disasters preparedness, diversification of food crops, water harvesting and alternative source of income generations to reduce deforestation. Example of communities mobilization activities will include i) Public gatherings discussing themes relevant to climate change and its impacts; ii) School and public competitions; iii) Visual posters and playing cards; iv) Radio and television programs; and v) Sports and games.

The awareness activities will be performed in synergy with Component 2 and as part of a top-down/ bottom-up approach to devise the best possible adaptation strategy. DRWS works at three levels to ensure wide participation and information/ awareness raising to relevant stakeholder. At National Level, DRWS coordinates with all stakeholders to develop common understanding and capacities for both sanitation and water supply. Typical activities at this stage include regular meetings, workshops and field visits, and contributions to national-level thematic groups and sector policy debates, such as the Joint Sector Review and its thematic working groups. At district level, DRWS work on district team approach under which the technical and social specialist work on the identified areas of the districts to capacitate and support the communities. A village based strategy is adopted at community level, this include capacity building for leadership structures is to enhance their knowledge, skills and attitude in water supply and sanitation construction management, and O&M. Capabilities of communities are enhanced as a result of learning-by-doing. Precisely at the community level, DRWS works closely with the district team (technical and social experts) and Chiefs to ensure the participation of all members of the community at all level.

Particular emphasis will be laid on tailoring the awareness session to reach out to all the community members irrespective of gender and academic credentials.

Component 4: Knowledge Management and Monitoring and evaluation

Knowledge and experience of the technology and approaches applied in the project will help the country better cope with similar challenges. This component will help the learning process by drawing lessons and making them available during project implementation as well as for future use. The main activities under this component are:

- Document and disseminate lessons learned and best practices documented and disseminated to raise awareness of effective climate risk management options for further up-scaling.
- Support to participation to adaptation practitioner's events and knowledge production for dissemination inside and outside the country.
- Preparation of monitoring and evaluation project reports, briefs and their updates.

A1.5 – Adaptation benefits, and innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

The project will deliver adaptation benefits in relation to water resources management that is sustainable in the face of expected climate change risks and the protection of livelihoods from the effects of climate change on water resources by:

- Fostering inclusive and participatory approach to promote ownership and raise awareness at all levels on climate change;
- Determining and deploying the right adaptation technologies for climate resilient water supply infrastructures;
- Improving readiness of institution to better manage negative impact of climate change on water resources; and

- Establishing the current needs of the policy/ regulatory framework by considering effects of climate change.

The project will therefore provide a bottom up and top down approach as it will empower both the rural communities affected as well prepare the governance to understand and undertake adaptation actions related to climate change. The project will also generate benefits in relation to MDGs 1 on reducing poverty and hunger and will be use as a benchmark for future initiatives in the country/ region.

The baseline project does not specifically address risks (and possible actions) related to climate change. Building on the existing national programs, this project will support the additional cost of ensuring that water resource management is integrated into key sector policies, systems and practices through the design and implementation of integrated water resources management and innovative policy tools tailored specifically for the context of Lesotho.

Moreover, a participative approach will be used to determine the adaptation technologies to be deployed in order to respond to the exact demands of the communities. Lessons learned from the project will be documented. These will promote ownership and allow smoother replicability of the project initiative in the long run.

A.2. Stakeholders. Will project design include the participation of relevant stakeholders from civil society and indigenous people? (yes /~~no~~) If yes, identify key stakeholders and briefly describe how they will be engaged in project design/preparation:

The rural water and sanitation sub-sector has a developed guidelines for a demand driven approach. It strengthens the community based groups to plan, coordinate, support and monitor the community water supply project in the implementation, operation and maintenance of domestic water, sanitation and hygiene awareness programs in a self-sustainable manner. The proposed LDCF project will build on this community involvement mechanism to prepare and implement various activities. The application of this guidelines depends mainly on a participatory approach at national, district, and community levels. As part of the Lowlands Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project, an update of rural water supply and sanitation (including operations and maintenance) gender sensitive community guidelines and manuals will be developed. There is an active community of NGOs engaged in the water and sanitation sector in Lesotho. Involvement of the Civil Society is expected to play a major role in in both rural and urban.

A multi sectoral approach consisting of all relevant stakeholders will be used given the specific nature of the project. This will also enable the project team to solicit interest and ownership to attain the set objectives.

The project will be executed by the Commission of Water (CoW) within the Ministry of Energy, Meteorology and Water Affairs (MEMWA). A Project Implementation Team (PIT) under the direct supervision of the DRWS will be constituted. The Ministry of Health (MoH) will assign a hygiene focal person who will be a member of the PIT and mobilize the input of the MoH and District Environmental Health Officers.

Other agencies with interest in water resources are the Ministry of Forestry and Land Reclamation responsible for land and water conservation and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security with a program of irrigated agriculture. These agencies will be part of the consultation in designing and implementing the actual activities.

The Ministry of Local Governments and Chieftainship Affairs (MoLGCA) is charged with the responsibility for decentralization which includes water management. Several functions are being delegated to local levels and the Ministry provides the necessary oversight, guidance and regulation, while MWEMWA provides the technical support. Decentralization in Lesotho is still in its infancy in Lesotho and many intended functions have as yet to be fully decentralized.

Coordination of various stakeholders including NGOs and CSOs participation will be ensured by the coordination mechanism outlined in Section A.5.

A.3. Gender Considerations. Are gender considerations taken into account? (yes /~~no~~). If yes, briefly describe how gender considerations will be mainstreamed into project preparation, taken into account the differences, needs, roles and priorities of men and women.

The quality of water and sanitation services is highly gender sensitive. The project interventions were informed by the socio-economic and gender analysis conducted during the preparation in the two districts and the Bank Multi-sectoral Gender Profile which conducted in 2005. Women in Lesotho have a high status in society and a voice in local and national government. Girls have benefited from investments in education more than boys. With a solid education behind them, many women in Lesotho have achieved positions of influence in households and institutions. While education has benefited many women; ironically there are large numbers of poor women, particularly in rural areas, who remain disadvantaged. Women and girls' privacy and safety are compromised by prevalent cultural practice. Furthermore, high male migration coupled with high HIV/AIDs rate has resulted in more than half of households are headed by women and orphaned.

Women and to some extent children are often responsible for the daily household chores including collection of water, cleaning and food preparation. These routine household chores get affected significantly by the quantity and quality of water available. In addition, an undue burden is placed on women to safeguard the quality of water that is collected from communal taps in the home. Provision of water and sanitation services therefore reduces the burden on women and children significantly. Recent data indicate that there are a higher proportion of women headed households (>30%). Furthermore, the minimal healthcare support systems in rural areas put a further pressure on women which is demonstrated by high under five mortality (115 - 2010). This is mainly linked to lack of adequate water and sanitation service among others.

While implementing the Institutional Support, Hygiene Promotion and Capacity Building components, particular attention will be given to ensuring that participation and leadership of women is promoted. The aim is to enable women to participate in and reach decision making positions in the organizations responsible for the delivery of water supply and sanitation services. This will increase the understanding of women's needs and foster their access to water supply and sanitation facilities by removing gender barriers. There will be deliberate actions in identifying and empowering women from the community to participate in water and sanitation committees, including providing necessarily training for women e.g. book keeping, awareness raising about water and sanitation operations, sensitization of men on gender issues.

A.4 Risk. Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design (table format acceptable):

Risk	Mitigation
Insufficient capacity for project implementation.	Continued advocacy and awareness raising at all levels to ensure commitment to mainstreaming climate change into sector plans, budgets, and policy frameworks. Due consideration will be given to involving traditional governance structures in an appropriate manner.
The risk of sustainability of the baseline project and adaptation measures.	Community mobilization and their engagement throughout the project development process. The project is incorporating (i) the development of gender and social responsive communication strategies, (ii) to sensitize the communities on implication of

	climate change, and (iii) a clear approach regarding cost recovery in operation and maintenance of infrastructures.
Inadequate capacity at local level to implement the project and sustainably manage the infrastructure.	Effective capacity development at community and local government level while pursuing policy dialogue with the government and development partners to sustain the decentralization process.
Insufficient coordination amongst stake-holders.	Develop champions within the Government and community members to promote adaptation. Getting the information developed and developing the right messages, as well as dissemination in the appropriate formats will be the ways that the project will result in positive outcomes.

A.5. Coordination. Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF-financed and other initiatives:

In order to ensure high level coordination with similar initiatives and other Government programs, the Project will receive a direction from the Project Steering Committee (PSC) for the Low Lands Water Supply Program (LLWSP). It will provide a higher level of oversight, and policy and strategic guidance and coordination for the implementation of the project. Members of the PSC include Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Development Planning, Ministry of Gender, Youth Sport and Recreation, MoH, Ministry of Local Government, WASCO, LEWA, CoW and MEMWA and NGOs.

The project will be implemented under the AfDB's Lowlands Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project which has been approved by the AfDB's Board of Directors on October 5, 2013. The project is funded to the tune of \$14,250,000 by the AfDB (through a mixture of grant and loan scheme) as well as with the assistance of the World Bank and the Government of Lesotho.

Relevant GEF- financed initiatives in Lesotho include:

Lesotho Adaptation of Small-Scale Agriculture (LASAP). This project, which is funded by LDCF and implemented by IFAD, is aiming to increase the resilience of small-scale agriculture to climate change impacts by promoting climate-proofed investments for agriculture-based development, as well as by enhancing the resilience of agricultural productivity under increased climate variability. Among other activities, the project includes a component aimed at increasing awareness and capacity for government and local stakeholders for reducing risks of climate induced losses in the agriculture sector. This component will, among other things, work with LMS to improve agro-meteorological capacity in the country, including through installation of a number of automated agro-meteorological stations, preparation and validation of local level climate/production models for agriculture (through set up of test plots in different microclimates and training of LMS staff), and work with ministry of agriculture and its extension services to increase capacity for 'translating' climate bulletins into production relevant advice at community and farm levels. The project will primarily work in Botha-Bothe, Leribe, Berea, and Mafeteng districts. This LDCF project will keep close contact with IFAD throughout the project preparation phase to make sure that synergies are maximized and that a mechanism for coordination is set up for the implementation phase. LMS will have a key role to play here as a key partner in both projects. In particular, it is anticipated that the installed met stations and downscaled models for agriculture can feed directly into the early warning system and mechanisms envisioned in this project.

The Smallholder Agriculture Development Program. This programme, also implemented by IFAD and the primary baseline for their 'Lesotho Adaptation of Small-Scale Agriculture' (LASAP) LDCF project, will increase the resilience of small scale agriculture to climate change impacts by promoting climate-proofed investments for agriculture-based development, as well as by enhancing the resilience of agricultural productivity under increased climate variability. The LDCF project will improve the

effectiveness of this project by producing and disseminating more detailed and downscaled climate models as well as early warnings for the agriculture sector which will help to design more appropriate local adaptation strategies and reduce the risks of disruptions by extreme events.

Reducing Vulnerability from Climate Change in the Foothills, Lowlands and Lower Senqu River Basin. This project, funded by LDCF and implemented by UNDP, will, using an EbA approach, mainstream climate change into the ongoing Land Rehabilitation Programme, through a variety of adaptation measures including establishment of a geo-based ecological and hydrological information system to increase the understanding of the relationships between climate change, ecosystems, and resilient livelihoods. While the project is still in its preparation phase, there is significant scope for synergy with the proposed EWS project. E.g. the planned mapping of climate vulnerabilities and hazards of sensitive natural resource will benefit significantly from improved data foundation, and greater resolution and accuracy in forecasting and scenario enabled through this project. At the same time, the improved understanding and documentation of links between climate, ecosystems and hydrology will provide valuable input into the EWS protocols planned under this project.

Strengthening Capacity for Climate Change Adaptation through Support to Integrated Watershed Management. This LDCF project (FAO implemented), which is still in its development phase is focused on implementation of adaptation measures related to sustainable land management and integrated water management. While the project will primarily focus on community level activities, it will also include a component on data, tools and methods for assessment of climate change impacts on land suitability and livelihoods. As for the UNDP project mentioned above, there is wide scope for potential synergies with the proposed EWS project, and these will be further explored during the PPG phase.

Strengthening capacity for climate change adaptation through support to Integrated Watershed Management Programme (total budget \$3.593 million). This activity, which is funded by LDCF and implemented through a number of national ministries (Forestry and Land Reclamation, Agriculture and Food Security, Natural Resources, and Local Government), Department of Environment and National University of Lesotho, will implement climate change adaptation measures at the local level to reduce vulnerability of local communities and improve their livelihoods and adaptive capacity. Scaling-up and transfer of climate resilient measures will also be considered. The current LDCF project will build on and further the developed institutional capacity of national and district level staff and institutions on climate change adaptation, sustainable land and water management. In particular the EWS project should be able to benefit from activities under 2.2.1., which aims to 'assess vulnerabilities and risks for selected watersheds in 3 livelihood zones' and will build comprehensive databases on livelihood to enable detailed quantitative analysis of CC impacts.

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

B.1 Is the project consistent with the National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions? (yes /no). If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, etc.:

NC. Lesotho's first national communication (NC1) reiterated that despite both short- and long-term training that had taken place in climate-related fields, the country required additional financial resources and greater coordination skills to build institutional capacity and take the subject of climate change to a broader audience, including rural communities.

The second national communication follows up on the NC1 in analyzing critical climate impacts and providing updates on what policies and measures the country has taken and envisaged to implement the Convention. The assessment again highlights critical CC impacts such as reduced precipitation - in particular in the south, and

generally increasing temperatures and how this will trigger a number of challenges in vulnerable economic sectors such as agriculture, water resources, forestry, livestock and rangelands, soil and land degradation, health and culture/heritage. The need for a comprehensive EWS is also highlighted, e.g. for the health sector.

NAPA. The Lesotho NAPA identifies 11 priority adaptation options including the one in the water sector, whose activities have been identified. The proposed LDCF project is directly aligned with Option 5 “Securing Village Water Supply for Communities in the Drought Prone Southern Lowlands” aimed at: i) improving community access to clean and optimal water supply, ii) increasing a network of water collection systems and iii) improving community capacity to manage the demand and usage of water. Activities under this Option include provision of sustainable water sources, capacity building of communities and promotion of catchment management.

The proposed LDCF project also contributes to Option 3 “Capacity Building and Policy Reform to Integrate Climate Change in Sectoral Development Plans” and 4 “Improvement of an Early Warning System against Climate Induced Disasters and Hazards” defined in the Lesotho NAPA.

National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP). The NDMP aims at: reducing its vulnerability to climate-related disasters such as sustained and severe droughts; increasing its capability to prevent, alleviate, contain, or minimize the effects of climate-related disasters; enhancing readiness or preparedness to deal with climate-related disasters; and ensuring the country's full recovery from the impacts of disasters. The Disaster Management Authority (DMA) is conscious of the data requirements of this planning process that involves coordinating data from more than 10 government departmental sources. LDCF assistance will therefore not only support the overall objectives of disaster management but also strengthen and capacitate the process of planning for disaster mitigation.

Lesotho's Poverty Reduction Strategy advocates for building capacity in environmental education in order to break this link. In particular, the strategy calls for the augmentation of public awareness campaigns, the inclusion of environmental issues in school curricula, and the intensification of the awareness of the importance of integrating environmental impact assessments into the country's planning process. In this respect, interventions in climate change, which is a major component of environmental management, are bound to have a direct impact on poverty alleviation. The latter occupies the highest priority on Lesotho's development agenda.

Lesotho's Vision 2020, a document that embodies the country's development aspirations up to the year 2020, advocates for the strengthening of institutions that are responsible for natural resources and environmental management, environmental advocacy and awareness campaigns as the main challenge for the implementation of global agreements for sustainable development. As part of the implementation strategy for Vision 2020 (and succeeding the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and the Interim National Development Framework (INDF)), Lesotho developed the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) of 2012/13 – 2016/17. The project responds directly to 4th and 5th strategic Goals of the NSDP by improving national resilience to climate change through undertaking or reviewing vulnerability assessments and strengthening capacity for disaster risk management.

The project is also in line with key policies in Lesotho, chief among which **the National Disaster Risk Reduction policy (2011), Environmental Act (2008) and National Environmental Action Plan, the Water Policy (2007) and the Rural Development Policy**. It is expected that this project will generate valuable lessons, methodologies and approaches to strengthen these policies so as to promote resilience throughout sectoral and national planning.


PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)

A. Record of Endorsement⁸ of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template. For SGP, use this SGP OFP endorsement letter).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Stanley M. DAMANE	GEF Operational Focal Point	MINISTRY OF TOURISM, ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE	11/11/2014

B. GEF Agency(ies) Certification

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies⁹ and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation under GEF-6.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
Mahamat ASSOUYOUTI		12/09/2014	Amel HAMZA	+27 12 003 6900	a.hamza@afdb.org

C. Additional GEF Project Agency Certification (*Applicable Only to newly accredited GEF Project Agencies*)

For newly accredited GEF Project Agencies, please download and fill up the required **GEF Project Agency Certification of Ceiling Information Template** to be attached as an annex to the PIF.

⁸ For regional and/or global projects in which participating countries are identified, OFP endorsement letters from these countries are required even though there may not be a STAR allocation associated with the project.

⁹ GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, and SCCF