9. Lesotho Highlands Water Project Phase II

**Project description and objectives**

Water transfer from Lesotho to South Africa, for water supply to South Africa and hydropower generation in Lesotho. The project objectives are to:

- To provide revenue to Lesotho by transferring water from the catchment of the Senqu/Orange river in Lesotho to meet the growing demand for water in the RSA's major industrial and population centres
- To avail an increased assurance of water supply for the regional economic hub in South Africa
- To generate hydro-electric power for Lesotho
- To provide the opportunity to undertake ancillary developments such as the provision of water for irrigation and potable water supply
- To promote the general development of the remote and underdeveloped mountain regions of Lesotho.

**Location on the Map**

![Lesotho Highlands Water Project Phase II](https://pp2.au-pida.org/approved-project/entry/gu5rn/)

**Link:** https://pp2.au-pida.org/approved-project/entry/gu5rn/

**Project status**

The project is in the Pre-feasibility stage (S2A)

**Financial needs**

- Preparation Cost: USD 4.0 Million
- Construction Cost USD: 2,600 Million

**Key parties**

Lesotho, South Africa, and others

**Technical specification of the project**

Construction of Polihali Dam (2,325 MCM full supply storage, 165m high dam wall, 921m crest length, 9m crest width, 45m high saddle dam with 603m crest length and 6.5m crest width), 38km transfer tunnel to Katse Dam, Advance infrastructure (power, telecommunications, roads, etc), hydropower generation (211MW). Water transfer RSA to increase to over 1,270MCM/year.

**Market size**

17,000 people affected, population of Lesotho and Gauteng. In impact, the beneficiaries from the project are estimated to be over 8 million people (including in Lesotho and South Africa). Various foreseen water uses include domestic, industrial, tourism, hydropower generation and environmental water requirements.