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

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

Project status	Financial needs
The project is in the **Pre-feasibility** stage (S2A)	► Preparation Cost : USD 4.0 Million ► Construction Cost USD : 2,600 Million.
Key parties	**Technial 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 witdth), 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.