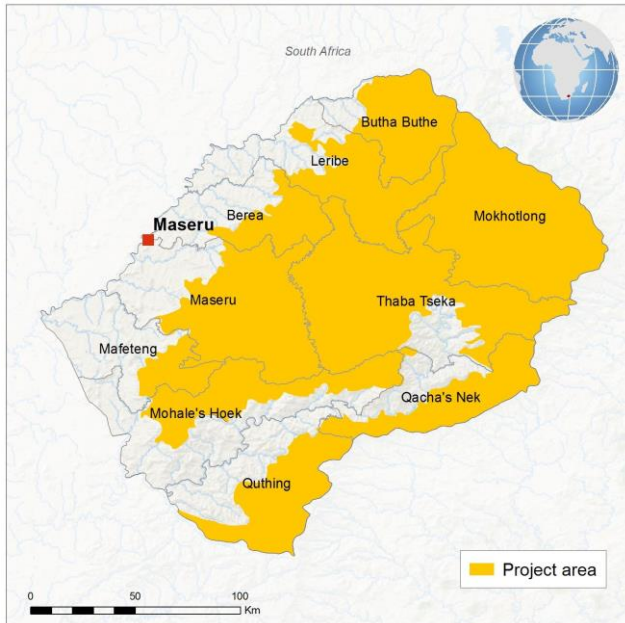


LESOTHO

Wool and Mohair Promotion Project (WAMPP)



The designations employed and the presentation of the material in the map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IFAD concerning the delimitation of the frontiers or boundaries, or the authorities thereof.

ISSUES

Lesotho ranks 158 out of 186 in the UNDP Human Development Index. Poverty is rife, and it is concentrated in the rural areas of the country, with the greatest incidence in the mountain areas. Lesotho's rural economy is dominated by livestock production. Lesotho's chief export is directly related to this livestock, that of wool and mohair production. Lesotho is the second largest global producer of mohair, and this counts towards a large percentage of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Only high quality wool and mohair can be exported, and this is dependent on the quality and health of the livestock. The main factor in raising high quality livestock is maintaining healthy rangelands.

Climate change – including rising temperatures, and a greater frequency of droughts and extreme rain events – is negatively affecting rural communities in Lesotho. In Lesotho a changing climate is also having severe effects on the livestock sector. The seasons are becoming less predictable, and there is an increase in severe weather. Less winter snow is causing a reduction in melt water. This means that crop production and grazing capacity is decreased. In the summer, late frosts cause poor yields of crops and fruit trees.

Prolonged droughts have plagued Lesotho in recent years, almost always followed by erratic rainfall. These couple to wash away the soil which is needed to support the vegetation. This soil erosion is another example of a climate change effect that is killing livestock.

There are many other issues which the WAMPP project needs to address in order to make the wool and mohair industry of Lesotho prosperous and resilient. Notably, regulations in the rangelands are outdated, and are not sufficient to address current challenges. Wealthy livestock owners can pressure herders to disobey the rules and regulations, as fines are very low and easily affordable to them. Additionally conflict between leaders has led to a loss of respect from herders and



Investing in rural people

Adaptation for
Smallholder
Agriculture
Programme

ASAP

Launched in 2012, the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP) channels climate and environmental finance to enable smallholder farmers who participate in IFAD projects to increase their resilience. Through ASAP, IFAD is systematically integrating climate resilience into the overall IFAD portfolio.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Total cost: US\$38.9m

Approved IFAD loan:
US\$5.8m

IFAD Grant: US\$5.8m

ASAP grant: US\$7m

Other contributions:

OPEC fund for International
Development (OFID):

US\$12m

Lesotho National Wool and
Mohair Growers Association
(LNWMGA): US\$1.5m

Government of Lesotho:

US\$3.9m

To be determined: US\$2.9m

Project period: 7 years (2015-
2021)

Executing agency: Ministry
of Agriculture and Food
Security (MAFS) in
collaboration with other
agencies

ASAP beneficiaries:
50,000+ households

Project objective: To reduce
poverty and food insecurity
amongst the poor rural
dwellers in the mountainous
areas of Lesotho.

owners, leading to more rule violations. Also the high population of livestock, compared to the small amount of good quality rangelands, leads to overgrazing and degradation of rangelands. This also relates to the lack of a value chain for meat and animal products.

ACTIONS

There are three main components to project intervention in Lesotho. It starts with repairing and nurturing the rangelands, then improving animal health and finally creating or improving the processing (shearing) and marketing for wool and mohair.

The first stage of rangeland improvements will use science-based management to introduce climate change adaptation measures. One aspect of this will be to support farmer decision making. This will include but not be limited to: providing historical climate data and participatory planning pre-season, as well as seasonal forecasts. Following that, short term weather forecasts and warnings are to be provided during the season.

With regards to improvements of animal health, this will involve enhancements to animal nutrition and breeding. The nutrition will be greatly dependent on the improvements to the rangelands as they act as the main food source for the livestock. The breeding will involve selecting the animals that produce the best quality wool and mohair and breeding them together to generate offspring with a genetic disposition to quality wool production. This will also involve taking livestock that don't produce quality wool and selling them for meat and other animal products.

Finally the project will develop the capacity of the smallholders to supply quality wool and mohair to national and international markets.

This component will also invest in rehabilitating and/or constructing shearing sheds operated by the LNWMGA, and improving farmer access to feeder roads and electricity. Higher quality shearing sheds will naturally preserve the quality of the wool and mohair that is produced, and also allow farmers access to climate resilient buildings for storage.

WAMPP will strengthen the cottage industry for processing of the wool and mohair sector by women and youth. It will also support the establishment of livestock auctioning and slaughtering slabs at district level as an initial step towards reducing the number of unproductive animals in the rangelands.

EXPECTED IMPACTS

The project is expected to combat the increasing degradation and low productivity of the rangeland; the low productivity and poor quality of the sheep and goat flocks; the poor standard of wool and mohair handling – which includes shearing, classing and presentation for sale; to further develop cottage industries to produce higher value items for the high end of the market; and to address the culling of animal, including slaughtering facilities.

The grazing and rangelands will be managed sustainably by user groups in coalition with traditional authorities. These rejuvenated rangelands will also be more resilient to the effects of climate change. Over grazing and flouting of the rangeland laws will be stopped and using new technology, the rangelands will return to their previous levels of prosperity.

Farmers will have access to up-to-date and relevant forecasts, concerning seasons, weather and possible climate shocks. This early warning, complemented by climate resilient infrastructures like storage facilities will enable the smallholders to cope with a changing climate and adapt as necessary, protecting their livelihoods.

The wool and mohair quality will be increased in line with the rangelands. There will be less overall livestock units, as this will alleviate the overpopulation of rangelands, but each unit will be producing the maximum amount of quality wool or mohair possible.

With the introduction or improvements of slaughter slabs, WAMPP will create another source of revenue for the livestock owners, and build a viable meat market industry, accessible to the farmers. The creation of slaughtering slabs will allow smallholders to easily sell livestock units, which is important for the increased production of higher quality wool and mohair and increase culling of low yielding sheep and goats.

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