

LHDA Advances Rehabilitation Efforts in Mokhotlong



The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) has intensified rehabilitation work in Mokhotlong District, reinforcing its commitment to environmental sustainability and community resilience as part of Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP).

Restoring Catchments and Ecosystems

The rehabilitation programme focuses on restoring degraded wetlands and sub-catchments in Mokhotlong, a critical source of Lesotho's highland waters. These efforts aim to safeguard water quality, reduce soil erosion, and maintain the ecological balance of the Senqu River basin. By protecting these natural systems, LHDA ensures the long-term sustainability of water transfers to South Africa while preserving Lesotho's reputation as the "water tower of Southern Africa."

A lot of work has been done in the rehabilitation of some parts of the Polihali Catchment Area. Where brush control, gabion installation and the introduction of drinking points. In the Motseremeli area alone at least 2657.1 hectares have been cleared of brush while 378.8 stone lines have been constructed to prevent soil erosion. At least two (2) drinking points have been erected as part of preventing animals from drinking water on the wetlands. In Malingoaneng particularly around the Ntsupe, Sotane, Ramonakalali and Ntsesanyane, brush control has been done on the area covering 504.08 hectares, 36.56 kilometres of stone lines have been constructed.

In the same spirit, at Tlokoeng, the LHDA has been able to construct 80.35 kilometres of stone lines and planted at least 600 Cheche (*Leucosidea Sericea*) trees have been planted

Supporting Livelihoods

Beyond environmental restoration, LHDA has rolled out community-based initiatives to strengthen livelihoods. In the Motseremeli catchment area alone, 4301 people from the surrounding area have been employed in the rehabilitations works. On the one hand, at least 45% of the total adult workforce was male while their female counterparts formed 46% of the workforce. On the other hand, 4% of the youth that was employed was male while the remaining 5% was female. A total of 150 fruit trees were planted in the Motseremeli catchment area while 1,659 fruit trees were planted in the Malingoaneng Catchment area.

Building Resilience

The rehabilitation programme also extends to social infrastructure. LHDA has delivered assistive devices under its Public Health Action Plan, alongside investments in education and recreational facilities. These interventions ensure that communities benefit directly from Phase II developments, while reinforcing resilience against environmental and economic challenges.

Other areas under Rehabilitation

On-going rehabilitation works involve catchment areas around Motseremeli, Malingoaneng, Tlokoeng, Likhameng, Malubalube, Molalana, Matlakeng, Libibing, Makhomalong, Tsilantso and many others.

