



Lesotho Highlands Development Authority

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LESOTHO HIGHLANDS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MARKS WORLD WETLANDS DAY

Maseru, 02 February 2017 – “The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) acknowledges the critical role that stakeholders play in the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands for the benefit of people, nature, reducing the impacts of extreme weather events and in helping to build resilience against climate change.” says Mrs Refiloe Tlali, CE of the LHDA.

Mrs Tlali made this observation as the LHDA, in collaboration with other stakeholders in the country joins, the rest of the global family in celebrating the World Wetlands Day whose theme for this year is “Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction.”

The Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) as an inter-basin water transfer scheme relies on wetlands as one of the main sources of water. Several wetlands types are found in Lesotho, but the most dominant are the unique alpine mires that comprise deep organic soils that form seepages in high altitude valley heads. A key characteristic of healthy wetlands is that they are able to absorb and retain a lot of rain water and then gradually release that water over time. In doing this, the water is released into nearby rivers which, under normal conditions, are able to flow all year round. When there are many and healthy wetlands, the rivers will be able to flow even in the severest of droughts.

The LHWP also uses the water transfer system to generate hydroelectricity for Lesotho’s needs. Wetlands are also a haven for biological biodiversity and host some of the unique and rare aquatic plant and animal species.

The Southern Africa region is prone to adverse weather conditions that include drought. The LHWP authorities therefore acknowledge the critical importance and relevance of this year’s theme. This was the key message delivered by the LHDA officials during an interactive radio show held to celebrate the World Wetlands Day in Maseru. The objective of the radio programme was to raise awareness and to highlight the vital role that healthy wetlands can play in reducing the impacts of extreme weather events and in helping to build resilience.

As part of its contribution to the conservation and preservation of wetlands, the Lesotho Highlands Water Project continues to engage with various stakeholders to raise awareness and to highlight the vital role of the wetlands in the ecosystem. The stakeholders include community members, chiefs and other community leaders, the herders, school children and other stakeholders who depend on the wetlands for their livelihood. The LHDA is also implementing a comprehensive wetlands rehabilitation programme.

During the LHDA outreach exercises, the stakeholders collectively explore the land use practices that can help in the resuscitation of wetlands, encourage proper care and sustainable use of the wetlands. One critical initiative that LHDA has implemented is the development of conservation areas in the country such as the Bokong Nature Reserve and the Tsehlanyane National Park.

The 2nd of February each year is World Wetlands Day, marking the date of the adoption of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971.

Ends

Ofisi ea Morero oa Metsi a Lihlaba e tsoaea letsatsi la lefatše la mekhoabo

Maseru, la 2 Hlakola 2017 – “Ofisi ea Morero oa Metsi a Lihlaba tsa Lesotho (LHDA) e ananela bohlokoa ba karolo e bapaloang ke bohle ba nang le seabo paballehong le tsebelisong ea mekhoabo molemong oa sechaba, tlhohleho, ho fokotsa sekhahla sa litla-morao tse mpe tse bakoang ke maemo a leholimo le ho thusa ho etsa hore mekhoabo e khone ho mamella litla-morao tsena tse bakoang ke phetoho ea Leholimo”, ho boletes Mofumahali Refiloe Tlali, Mookameli oa Ofisi ea Morero.

Mofumahali Tlali o buile tsena e le ha Ofisi ea Morero, ka tšebeliso le ba nang le seabo kahare ho naha, le lefatseng ka bophara ha ho ketekoa letsatsi la lefatše la mekhoabo leo sehloho sa teng sa selemo sena e leng, “Mekhoabo phokotsong ea likoluo”.

Morero oa Metsi a Lihlaba tsa Lesotho e le Morero oa likhakeletsi o kopanyang linaha tse ngata, o itsetlehile haholo holima mekhoabo e le e meng ea mehloli e meholo ea metsi. Ke mefuta e mengata haholo ea mekhoabo e fumanehang naheng ea Lesotho, empa e mengata/meholo e fumaneha ka maloting. Metsi ana a theoha ka lihlabeng hoe a liphuleng tse mabalane. Mekhoabo e phetseng hantle, e bonahala ka hore e khona ho monya le ho boloka metsi a mangata e be e a ntsa hanyane ka nako e telele. Ka hoe tsa tjena, metsi a phallela linokeng tse haufi tseo e reng ha maemo a tloaelehile, e be li phalla selemo ho pota. Ha ho ena le mekhoabo e mengata, e phetseng hantle, linoka li tla ‘ne li phalle leha ho ena le komello e kholo.

Morero oa Metsi a Lihlaba tsa Lesotho o sebelisa thepa e fetisetsang metsi Afrika Boroa ho fehla motlakase sebakeng sa baahi ba naha ea Lesotho. Mekhoabo e boetse hape ke lehae la boieane ba tlhohleho le la limela le liphoofole tse sa fumaneheng hohle mona.

Tikoloho e Boroa ea Afrika is atisa ho otloa ke maemo a ma be a leholimo a kenyelletsang komello. Mookameli ba Morero bo etse hloko bohlokoa ba mohoo oa selemo sena. Hona ke molaetsa o ka sehlohong o ileng oa fetisoa ke bahlanka ba Morero lenaneong la sea-le-moea le neng le entsoe e le ho keteka letsatsi la lefatše la mekhoabo Maseru. Sepheo sa lenaneo lena e ne e le ho hlokomelisa le ho bontša bohlokoa boo mekhoabo e phetseng hantle bo nang le eona tabeng ea ho fokotsa litla-morao tse bohloko tsa maemo a leholimo.

E le karolo ea Morero ea ho baballa le ho tšireletsa mekhoabo, Morero oa Metsi a Lihlaba, o tsoela pele ho sebelisana ‘moho le bohle ba nang le seabo ho hlokomelisa sechaba ka kakaretso ka bohlokoa ba mekhoabo tikolohong. Litabeng tsa mekhoabo, ke ba latelang ba nang le seabo; sechaba ka bo-sona, marena, baetapele ba sechaba, balisana, bana ba likolo le mefuta e meng eo bophelo ba letsatsi le letsatsi bo itšetlehileng ka mekhoabo. Ofisi ea Morero oa Metsi a Lihlaba e ntse e tsoela pele ka mananeo a eona a ho khutlisetsa mekhoabo bo-eoneng.

Nakong eo Ofisi ea Morero e ntseng e etsa matšolo a tlhokomeliso, ba nang le seabo paballehong ea mekhoabo ho sheba litsela le mekhoba eo ka eona ho ka tsosolosoang mekhoabo, ho e sebelisa hantle le hona hoe tsa bonnete bah ore mekhoabo e phela ka bosafeleng. E ‘ngoe ea lintho tseo Ofisi e li fihletseng ke ho ntlafatsa libaka tse baballetsoeng tse kang setsi sa Bokong hammoho le sa Tšehlanyane.

Letsatsi la la bobeli Hlakola, le ketekoang selemo le selemo, ke letsatsi la lefatše la mekhoabo, le tsoaeang ho kena tšebetsong hoa tumellano ea Ramsar litabeng tsa mekhoabo ka la 2 Hlakola 1971.

