

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Master Plan for Feeder Roads and Bridges for the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) Phase II



Purpose of this Document

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to explain the background and need for the Master Plan for Feeder Roads and Bridges. This document outlines the scope of the Master Plan of Feeder Roads and Bridges, the process to be followed and provides a description of the Master Plan of Feeder Roads to inform Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) about the project.

Background and Objectives of this Study

The impounding of the Polihali Reservoir will inundate the valleys of the Senqu, Mabunyaneng, Khubelu, Sehonghong, Moremoholo and Mokhotlong rivers over considerable distances. As a result, a number of existing roads and tracks will be permanently submerged and shops, schools, other community services and agricultural activities will no longer be accessible.

The objective of this study is to develop a feeder road master plan to mitigate the impacts brought about by the impounding of the Polihali Reservoir on the existing roads and tracks, and to ensure that accessibility is restored to the affected communities.

The specific goals of the study are:

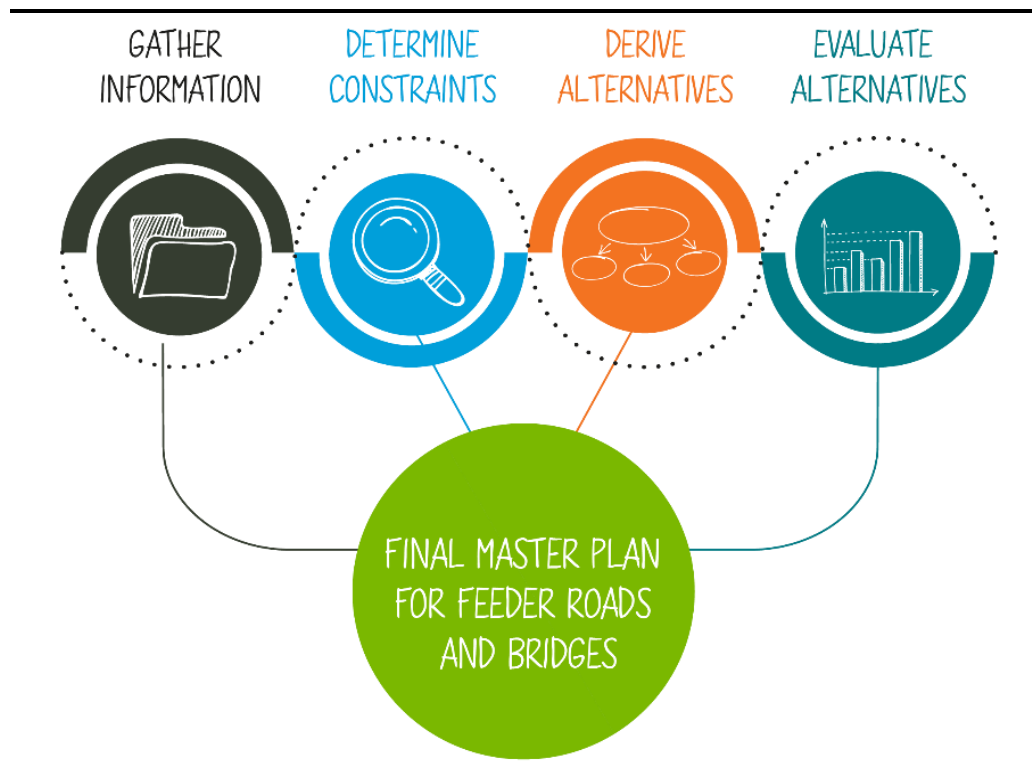
- Restoring or improving access to community facilities (such as schools, markets and medical clinics) that would have been lost due to inundation
- Integrating existing and resettled villages to the national road network
- Stimulating development in the project area
- Stimulating tourism in the region

Master Plan Process

Zutari Lesotho (the Consultant) and its sub-consultants will be developing a Master Plan for Feeder Roads and Bridges on the behalf of the LHDA. As part of the development of the Master Plan, multiple specialist studies will be undertaken including visual, environmental and social studies, and road and

bridge conceptual design. Stakeholder engagement also forms part of the development of the Master Plan. The Master Plan process will proceed as indicated below:

Steps in the Master Plan development Process



Stakeholder Engagement and Way Forward

Stakeholder engagement for the development of the Master Plan process will be on-going until the draft Master Plan has been completed and approved by the LHDA. The various stages of stakeholder engagement are as follows:

Phase	Objective	Type of engagement	Timeframe
Sensitisation:	Introduction of the team, project, and process going forward.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings will be held with district and community leaders (i.e. Directors, heads of departments, councillors, area chiefs, Area Liaison Committees (ALCs)). ALCs have been established by the LHDA to engage with stakeholders. Meetings with Directors in various government and NGOs at the national level Distribution of Background Information Document 	September 2021
Stakeholder consultations and social baseline data gathering:	<p>To introduce the team, project and to share project information with stakeholders.</p> <p>To collect information about the social conditions of communities residing in the areas that will be affected.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Pitsos</i> including focus group discussion will be held with the affected communities based on the structures set up by the LHDA. Consultations with other LHDA Phase II Consultants and Contractors Consultations with stakeholders in government departments and NGOs 	September to mid-October 2021
Disclosure of Draft Master Plan for Feeder Roads and Bridges	To share the Draft Master Plan with local authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings with Heads of Departments, Community Councillors and ALCs to share the draft Master Plan and get feedback before it is finalised. 	

Invitation to Register and Comment

Stakeholders who wish to contribute to the Master Plan process by submitting comments are requested to contact Ms Thato Letsatsi or to submit comments using the attached “Register and Comments” Sheet. You are encouraged to provide your contact details so that we can alert you to upcoming meetings, availability of reports and the progress of the Master Plan.

Comments and views must be submitted before the 15 October, 2021. Contact details for Ms Letsatsi and the address (physical and email) to which the Register and Comments Sheets should be submitted are:

Ms Thato Letsatsi

Sechaba Consultants: Physical Address: Naleli Letamong, Maseru

Postal address: PO Box 0021, Maseru West, 105

Tel: +266 5883 4073 E-mail: info@sechaba.co.ls OR thato197@yahoo.com

Reference: LHDA Contract 6019

Master Plan for Feeder Roads and Bridges for the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) Phase II

Registration and Comment Sheet

September, 2021

Project Reference: LHDA Contract 6019

Should you have any queries, comments or suggestions regarding the proposed project, please note them below:

Return this comment sheet to Ms Thato Letsatsi

Physical Address:

LHDA Contract 6019

Naleli Letamong, Maseru

Postal address: PO Box 0021, Maseru, 100

Tel: +266 5883 4073 E-mail: info@sechaba.co.ls OR thato197@yahoo.com

Please formally register me as an interested and affected party (I&AP) and provide further information and notifications during the development of the Master Plan			Yes	No
I would like to receive my notifications by:	Email	Post	Fax	
Comments				

Please fill in your contact details below for project database:

Name and Surname:	
Organisation/ Community Represented	
Telephone Number:	

Thank you for your participation!