



Building capacity through global expertise: LHDA participates in SANCOLD 2024

The Chief Executive of the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) led a delegation of officers from the Environment Branch, Dam Safety, and other technical teams to the 2024 South African National Committee on Large Dams (SANCOLD) Conference. Held from the 6th to the 8th November at the Wanderers Club in Johannesburg, the conference offered a platform to enhance LHDA's capacity in sustainable water management and infrastructure development.

Under the theme "Water Preservation: A Critical Requirement for Sustainability," the conference underscored the importance of conserving water resources to ensure availability for future generations through sustainable management practices. Delegates gained valuable insights on key topics, including dam safety, water security, hydropower modernization, sediment management, and nature-based solutions (NbS). These align closely with LHDA's 10-Year Strategy, particularly in sustainability, infrastructure resilience, and governance.

"This conference was a vital opportunity to build LHDA's capacity. It introduced us to innovative practices that will significantly help us align with global best practices as we perform our duties across different branches," said Mohlomi Rasekeiti, POB Electrical C&P Technician Trainee. He described the event as transformative, offering actionable insights to enhance how they implement LHDA's projects and operations.

For Senior Officer-ICM Mrs. 'Mamokoli Tlebere, the conference reaffirmed the importance of Nature-Based Solutions, such as catchment rehabilitation through invasive species removal and soil erosion control. "It was a proud moment to see these interventions, which prioritise community and biodiversity benefits, encouraged by global scholars and industry leaders," she said.

The conference also emphasized the evolving focus of SANCOLD. While traditionally promoting technical excellence in dam development, greater attention is now being placed on addressing social and environmental issues critical to sustainability.

By participating in SANCOLD 2024, LHDA delegates not only gained exposure to cutting-edge solutions and international best practices but also fostered connections with industry experts, reinforcing its commitment to sustainable development and capacity building. Events like these are crucial for maintaining leadership in water resource management and driving innovative, community-focused solutions.