



LHDA Participates in World Day of Desertification and Drought



The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) values environmental issues and actively contributes to initiatives addressing them. On June 17, 2024, LHDA exhibited at the World Day of Desertification and Drought event held in Mokema, Maseru district. The theme for this year's event, "United for Land. Our Legacy. Our Future," highlights the importance of land stewardship for the future.

As a member of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Lesotho commemorates this day annually. The UNCCD, established in 1994 by the General Assembly, is the only legally binding international agreement that connects environmental sustainability with development through sustainable land management.

LHDA has partnered with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and other stakeholders to manage the environment and protect wetlands in the Mohale Catchment. Initiatives include brush control, building stone lines and gabion structures, and tree planting. LHDA collaborates closely with local chiefs, community councillors, grazing associations, and communities to safeguard these efforts.

Mofumahali Maseitebatso Khoeli, the area chief of Mokema Ha Khoeli, welcomed the participants and thanked the organizations involved in the project. She expressed her gratitude for the support in improving and managing the land.

Mr. Nkuebe Lerotholi, speaking on behalf of Prince Seeiso Seeiso, Principal Chief of Matsieng, outlined the day's objectives and urged the people of Ha Khoeli to protect the environment and prevent desertification and drought.

Mr. Litaba Mojaki, chairman of the Mohlakeng Community Council, praised the initiative and called for its expansion to other areas. He also requested more trees from the Minister to help combat desertification and drought.

Ms. Maphakamile Qhingwane, the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, congratulated the Ha Khoeli community and encouraged them to continue their good work. She highlighted the threat of climate change and its potential health impacts if not properly addressed.

In closing, Honourable Minister Letsema Atontsi emphasized the importance of educating communities about desertification and drought issues, and reaffirmed why Lesotho is part of this vital initiative.

