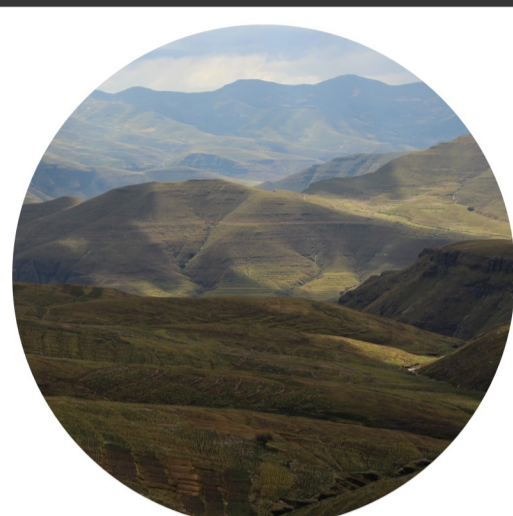


ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION IN ACTION



A STORY OF CHANGE IN MAPUTSOE, THABA TSEKA, LESOTHO



Maputsoe village is located in the mountainous region of Thaba Tseka in central Lesotho.



Villagers have traditionally grazed their sheep and cattle on the hillsides and rangelands, and created home gardens to feed their families.



The people of Maputsoe have witnessed serious degradation of their landscape. Increasingly severe rains and intense droughts erode the soil and affect their crops and livestock.



In response, UNEP – in collaboration with Lesotho Meteorological Services – is implementing a project to enhance climate resilience in rural areas of Lesotho, including Maputsoe.

CHIEF SEEPAPITSO TSITSO CONSTANCE MONYANE, MAPUTSOE



"My name is Seepapitso Tsitso Constance Monyane, I'm 48 and Chief of Maputsoe village. My wife and I have five children. We grow sorghum, maize, potatoes, vegetables and also raise sheep and pigs.

In recent years, we've suffered from poor harvests because the frost comes early and the rainy season is delayed. The loss of soil fertility is also obvious, due to the topsoil erosion, which contributes to low crop yield. When the rains do come, they are very heavy and wash away fertile topsoil from the fields.

People in my village have suffered from climate-induced problems with their livestock and crops. There are new pests and diseases such as aphids and locusts that attack the crops, especially during dry seasons. Our animals miscarry due to inadequate nutrition and those that manage to finish gestation can't produce milk for their young ones.

People here are becoming poorer because they can't sell their crop harvests. It is vital that my community learns to adapt to the changing climate because our livelihoods depend on agriculture – which is the most vulnerable sector.

My community has been involved in the UNEP/LDCF project to rehabilitate the rangeland and build our climate resilience. We've started to see early signs of recovery on the rangelands and we have developed grazing plans.

It's clear to see that the building of stone lines has decreased soil erosion and improved vegetation cover. It's a sign that the rangelands can regenerate. Our village has received ten Merino rams – and now we're breeding more resilient lambs and we've seen a huge improvement in the quality and quantity of wool.

I have confidence that in the coming years the animals will be stronger and we will have productive grazing land.

My message to the global community is this – we need continued assistance to adapt – to re-seed more areas, plant fruit trees, construct gullies and breed more resilient cattle."

"People here are becoming poorer...It is vital that we learn to adapt to the changing climate.

We need continued assistance to adapt – to re-seed more areas, plant fruit trees, construct gullies and breed more resilient cattle."

RANGELAND REHABILITATION IN MAPUTSOE VILLAGE



Rangeland Management and Rehabilitation Plans – developed in coordination with the entire community



Brush control and re-seeding with native grass species *Eragrostis curvula*

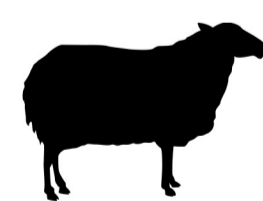


Construction of stone lines on steep slopes to reduce erosion and preserve fertile soil



Re-seeding of the rangeland with climate resilient and more drought resistant forage species which have good nutritional value and root systems to bind the soil

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK ADAPTATION IN MAPUTSOE



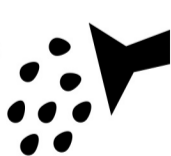
Introducing hardy 'climate resilient' merino sheep which are more drought resistant and produce good wool and meat with fewer resources



Training provided in how to develop and implement farming techniques to cope with climate change



Greenhouse tunnels constructed to extend the growing season



Wells, dams and storage tanks built to store water effectively



Keyhole gardens constructed, which are drought resilient and enable more efficient soil fertilisation



Climate resilient crop species such as sorghum and maize species trialed to maximize crop yield in a changing climate

REGENERATION, PRESERVATION, RESILIENCE...



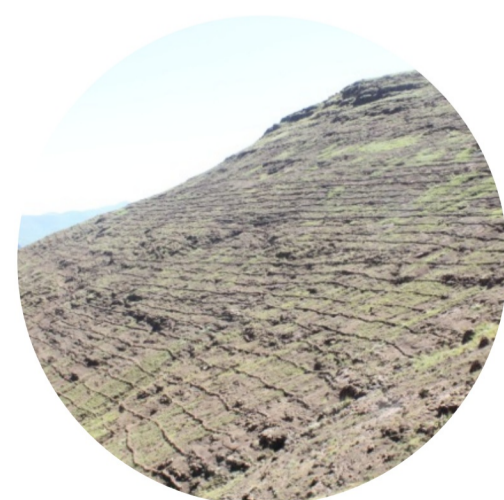
63

hectares of rangeland re-seeded with grasses to improve the grazing land and regenerate the environment



30

families assisted to build small home gardens to improve their food security and nutrition



15

kilometres of stone walls built to shore up the soil and preserve and regenerate the rangeland



10

climate resilient merino sheep provided to the highland communities to improve breeding stock

