



Public gathering at local community during LADA local level assessment in one of the catchment area representing foothills in Lesotho. (Polao Moepi)

Focus Group Discussion ()

Pitso

This focus group discussion was composed of 15-20 participants: community elders, youth, (males and females as informed by local beliefs and norms), retired government officials. The aim of community focus group discussion was to find land users' perception and behaviour on land uses and SLM. It was organised by Ministry of Forestry, LADA coordinator and national consultant. The target group was land users, local authorities, youth, small stock owners, retired government officials. The target group mandate was also to draw the community map which also showed the land uses and resources. This focus group discussion gave researchers information on land uses, natural resources, prior SLM interventions, and many more.

1. Conducted an initial field visit before the focus group discussion (FGD) with the selected villages within the sub-catchment: A tour by road with a few key informants to familiarise officers with the study area, land uses, also the extent and severity of degradation and types and extent of conservation and improved land management measures with the result being a community territorial map.

2. The aim of Focus Group Discussion (FGD) is to obtain information about range of land-users, their individual and communal management regime and the history of their area. This method is used as the first stage of implementation in LADA local level assessment.

3. The FGD representatives consisted of different social groups (i.e. both men and women – and different age groups) between 15-20 members. These members together with technocrats sat at round table set up which enabled free and interactive communication and feedback. Each study area had its own list of FGD questions and facilitated them accordingly. Field Assessments confining; six (6) study areas in each sub-catchment.

•Vegetation assessment.

•Soil assessments which entail soil erosion and soil properties (2 study areas).

•Water resources assessment with key informant interviews on water resources.

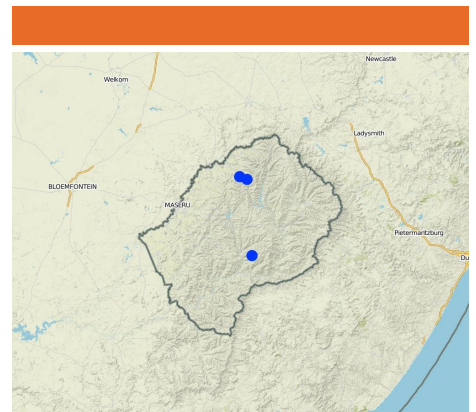
•Household livelihood assessments.

•Land use systems

4. The target group mandate was also to draw the community map which also showed the land uses and resources. This focus group discussion gave researchers information on land uses, natural resources, prior SLM interventions, and many more. This approach enabled land users to present all their views without fear or dominance by other members. They realised that they have their resources in abundance, however, they need to improve their status as their livelihoods entirely depends on their good use.

5. It was organised by Ministry of Forestry, National University of Lesotho, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water, Ministry of Local Government, LADA coordinator and national consultant. The target group was land users, local authorities, youth, small stock owners, retired government officials.

6. The advantage of FGD was that the land users were taught on income generating activities



: Focus group discussions were held in three different catchments (Ha Mahloane, Bolahla Pitseng in Leribe district, Lesobeng khutlo se-metsi catchment in Thaba-Tseka district and Ha mosuoie catchment in Quthing district., Southern Africa,

- 28.3711, -29.84064
- 28.22315, -29.01262
- 28.31022, -29.04516
- 28.31022, -29.04516
- 28.31022, -29.04516

	:
	: 2030
<input type="checkbox"/>	/
<input type="checkbox"/>	/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/

such as orchard establishment, food processing, vegetable production under shade nets/tunnels (climate smart agriculture). They did not like the timing of FGD because it interfered with their harvesting season, it took longer than it was intended and the weather conditions were not conducive as it was too cold and on the second day, snow began to fall.



Participants' interaction during FGD (Joseph Patrick Mensah)

To find land-users views on their status of their natural resources and if they have indigenous knowledge systems applicable to be used in the management method

- socio-economic factors can hinder the application of this technology
- FAOLS country office assisted with finances
- The Lesotho government has provided all conditions necessary
- Other line ministries have fully participated
- Farmer-Extension worker ratio is too high to enable adequate scaling up of SLM technologies
- Lesotho land tenure needs to be reviewed
- The Department of Soil and Water Conservation's policy is still in its draft form.
- In Lesotho, land is communally owned
- limited subsidies towards direct sourcing of specific inputs
- Farmer-Extension worker ratio is too high to enable adequate scaling up of SLM technologies

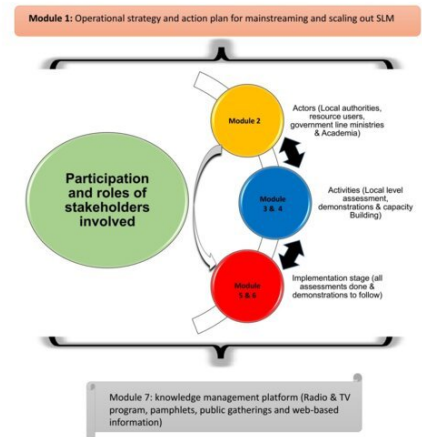
?		
/	farmers, traditional healers	participants
/	soil scientists, agriculturalists, environmentalists and hydrologists	facilitators
	National University of Lesotho (natural resource management researchers)	facilitators/researchers
	Chiefs and Local councillors	community organisers
) (Soil and Water resource line ministries	planning, mentoring and decision support

Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation

/	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

key informants as community representatives
 key informants and technocrats working together to produce community maps
 technocrats tour guided by community elders

This flow chart describes participation of stakeholders in the implementation of DS-SLM activities in Lesotho



: Koetlisi Koetlisi (PhD) and Matoka Moshoeshoe

SLM	
<input type="checkbox"/>	()
<input type="checkbox"/>	(SLM)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SLM
<input type="checkbox"/>	SLM
<input type="checkbox"/>	/
<input type="checkbox"/>	/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	()
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

There are farmer-farmer visits facilitated by extension workers. There are also agriculture resource centres whereby farmers visit to get more information.

-
-



/

Each researcher facilitated their area of speciality and this enabled the question-answer session to be easy. community members had bottle-necks which researchers ironed. The challenge in extension services is means of transport to the landusers due to terrain of our country, so extension service is somehow compromised and not accessible at all times.

SLM

- < 2,000
- 2,000-10,000
- 10,000-100,000
- 100,000-1,000,000
- > 1,000,000

Precise annual budget:

FAO-UN Government of Lesotho

The money caters for accomodation, meals, transport, refreshments for researchers. This is because reseachers do not reside where the FGD was taking place, after the FGD followed LADA local level assessment, which was conducted for 15 days.



/

There are policies and laws which were referred to in order to support SLM such as Forest Act (1998), Range Resources Management policy (2013)

participants exchanged information without any hindrance as they were able to learn based on their baseline knowledge

?



Land users were only given a theory on the importance of SLM technologies not how technologies are constructed. other researchers were novice in land management, it is though this approach where they learned facilitation skills. In Lesotho, land management activities are implemented mostly by women, youth and elderly because men in the villages work in South African mines. The picture of FGD also portrays more women than men

SLM?



This was not part of the agenda

?

SLM



It was agreed that participants would take part in demonstrations that would be implemented later in their respective communities

SLM?



All stakeholders in the natural resources management had a chance to discuss collectively- not in silos, issues that concerned them

?



All stakeholders in the natural resources management had a chance to discuss collectively- not in silos, issues that concerned them. Presence of researchers strengthened this collaboration.

/

?



all levels of society were represented

?



The youth were also represented

SLM ?

/



Lesotho land tenure issues need to be addressed at national level

SLM?

/



Officers from Ministry of Agriculture through extension, delivered issues of nutrition and food security

/

?



?



There is abundance of natural resources in this area. Members were made aware of markets opportunities around them

?



Officers from Ministry of Water advised on issues of water and sanitation

/

?



The community entirely depends on the natural resources for better livelihoods

/

?



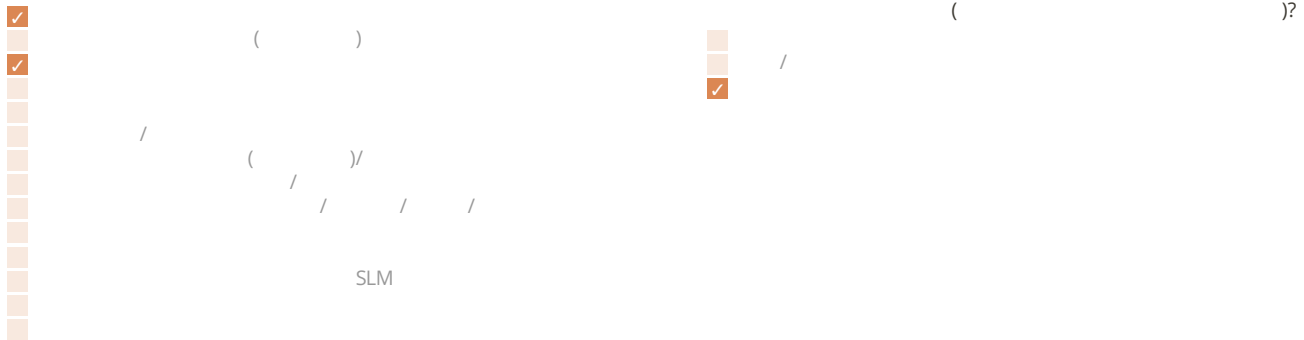
Climate change issues were also discussed and participants were made aware of the effects.

?



Key informants were asked about their means of livelihoods in the area. This opened income opportunities to some members

SLM



- Knowledge management
 - It can easily be implemented
 - It brings different land user groups together
- other key resource persons such as local authorities liked this approach because it them ideas on which resources are available in the catchment and how communities utilise them for survival. The land users on the other hand ound this approach very useful as they were empowered and allowed to say their views without fear or favor as they were informed that there were no wrong answers. everybody participated fully

- It is limited to key informants It should be replicated within the same community but, with different participants (Key)
- Some key informants tend to dominate the discussion The facilitator should be observant and try to control dominating participants
- It may become a platform for conflicts Local authorities should be present in case conflicts arise



Editors

Matoka Moshoeshoe

Rima Mekdaschi Studer
William Critchley

: 13

2018

: 9

2019

Koetlisi Koetlisi (koetlisika@gmail.com) -

SLM

https://qcat.wocat.net/km/wocat/approaches/view/approaches_4266/

SLM

- Integrated Catchment Management Project (Integrated Catchment Management Project) -
- Decision Support for Mainstreaming and Scaling out Sustainable Land Management (GEF-FAO / DS-SLM)

• N/A:

- Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation: <https://forestry.gov.ls>
- Lesotho Soil Information System: <https://lesis.gov.ls>

This work is licensed under [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/)

