

Reference N° 4261	Project title		Protection of the Orange-Senqu Water Sources – SPONGE – Project					
Name of legal entity	Country	Overall project value (EUR)	Proportion carried out by legal entity (%)	Quantity of staff provided (persons-month)	Name of client	Origen of funding	Dates (start/end)	Name of partners if any
GOPA Consultants	Lesotho	1,092,494 (Amount utilized: 974,885.05)	82	2 LTE (63.5 pm) and Pool of STE (18.7 pm)	GIZ	BMZ, DFID and AusAID	01/2013 - 09/2015	GWC Consulting Engineers Pty Ltd. Lesotho and Wetland Consulting Services Pty Ltd. South Africa
Detailed description of project				Type of services provided				
<p>Project background Land use practice in the Lesotho Highlands is non-sustainable. Despite the importance of the high mountain wetlands as local and regional water source, they continue to be degraded, mainly because of uncontrolled livestock grazing and trampling, infrastructure development, siltation and erosion, encroachment by cultivation and overexploitation of resources.</p> <p>The project supported the Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM) in the implementation of a pilot intervention for the protection of the Orange-Senqu source in Lesotho. Khubelu catchment in Mokhotlong district had been identified as pilot area. Khubelu is representative of the land use problems of the Lesotho Highlands and it is immediately upstream of a proposed new dam.</p> <p>Overall objective of the project The overall objective of the project is: 'Holistic protection and conservation of the 'Sponges' in the Khubelu catchment demonstrate a methodological approach for the sustainable management of the wetlands benefiting the population as well as the environment and securing long-term availability and quality of water from the Upper Orange-Senqu catchment area.'</p> <p>Specific objectives of the project The project aimed at improving the sustainable use of wetlands in the Khubelu catchment of the Lesotho Highlands; its specific objectives were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The range management in the Khubelu catchment is improved. • Degraded wetlands in the Khubelu catchment are rehabilitated. • Results of monitoring of wetlands in the Khubelu catchment, research and a collection of lessons learned are available for replication in other catchments. <p>Purpose of the TA The project mainly worked with two Community Councils (CCs) and two Grazing Associations (GAs); it was embedded into the local governmental structures and directly cooperated with/works through the Department of Water Affairs, the Range Department and the Soil Conservation Department. Funds were also available to undertake biological and physical rehabilitation measures of wetlands and to purchase and install a meteorological station.</p>				<p>Project management activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project planning, steering and monitoring in coordination with the steering committees at central and local level; • Community and key stakeholder liaison; • Financial monitoring, procurement of goods, works and services; • Coordination of short-term experts' inputs; and • Reporting. <p>Technical activities The project entailed the following intervention areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Livestock census; ○ Stock rate/carrying capacity analysis; range condition assessment (using GPS and GIS); ○ Introduction of stock rate control and rotational grazing; ○ Rangeland erosion control; and ○ Rangeland monitoring. • Wetland rehabilitation and management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Protection of sponge wetlands; ○ Gully erosion control; ○ Cropland withdrawal; and ○ Wetland monitoring. • Capacity building measures, directed to CCs, GAs, chiefs, livestock owners, herders, district administrations, partner institutions (Department of Water Affairs, the Range Department and the Soil Conservation Department), ORASECOM, etc. Capacity building was not only limited to formal training courses, but covered on-site on-the-job capacitation, intervention reviews, coaching and mentoring, documented show cases, on-site demonstrations, written illustrated guidelines and lessons learnt. • Clarification of roles and strategies of stakeholders in land and natural resources management. • Set up of a monitoring & evaluation system and development of a communication tool box. • Cost-benefit study: calculation of direct and indirect project benefits in relation to costs accrued to the different stakeholders. • Installation of a meteorological station and data collection. • Documentation of lessons learnt; knowledge management. 				

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<p>TA service results</p> <p>Outputs related to objective 1 The proposed outputs related to improved range management in the Khubelu catchment are:</p> <p>Output 1.1: Grazing plans for Khubelu catchment are effectively in place based on re-established range management areas according to CCs boundaries and the responsibilities of Chiefs and CCs. This includes data collection on livestock and natural resources and GIS mapping of range areas.</p> <p>Output 1.2: Capacitated GAs, CCs, chiefs, herders and livestock owners manage Khubelu rangelands in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>Output 1.3: Capacitated District Administration supports sustainable land-use planning and effective livestock and range management.</p> <p>Outputs related to objective 2 The proposed outputs related to rehabilitation of degraded wetlands are:</p> <p>Output 2.1: Methodologies of biological and physical rehabilitation of wetland are tested in the Khubelu catchment.</p> <p>Output 2.2: GAs and CCs are capacitated to implement and maintain biological rehabilitation of wetlands.</p> <p>Output 2.3: Rehabilitated wetlands are monitored and maintained.</p> <p>Outputs related to objective 3 The proposed outputs related to monitoring and sustainable management of wetlands are:</p> <p>Output 3.1 Stakeholder roles and strategies in wetlands, water resources and natural resource management in Lesotho are clarified and agreed.</p> <p>Output 3.2 Wetland monitoring system including wetlands Geographical Information System (GIS) is established and operational. This includes cooperation with the University of Lesotho and RAMSAR STRP.</p> <p>Output 3.3 Hydrological station and weather station are operational in the upper Khubelu catchment.</p> <p>Output 3.4 Research results on impact of ice rat and moles on wetland health and mitigating factors are available and influence interventions in other catchments.</p> <p>Output 3.5 The replication and institutionalization of local wetland rehabilitation and protection at the national and river basin level is facilitated through the sharing of lesson learned and best practices. This includes the production of a cost-benefit study.</p>			
		Name/profile of main staff provided	Number of <u>person months</u> worked on the project
		Team leader	31.4 pm
		Community facilitator (GOPA share - 0.5 of this position where paid by GWC)	16.1 pm