



LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

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Agro-Met Monthly Update:

July 2008

Date of issue: August 2008

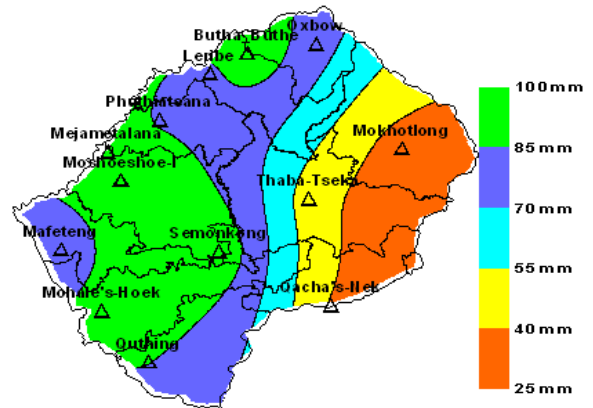
Highlights

1. Dry weather experienced countrywide
2. Normal mean monthly temperatures experienced
3. harvesting continued into the reporting period

Rainfall

Monthly Actual Rainfall

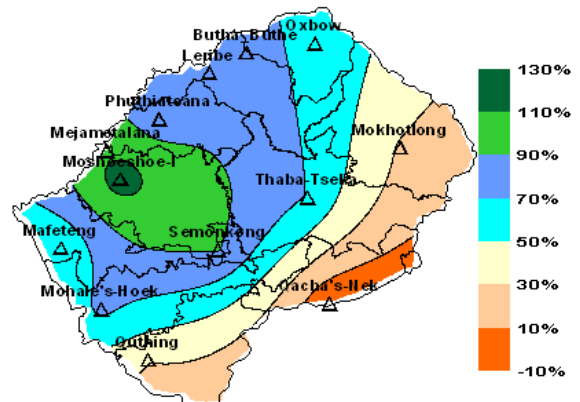
Dry weather conditions prevailed during the month of July 2008. That is a contrast of June when weather was very wet. Many parts of the country did not record any rainfall in July, and the highest monthly rainfall was 1.3mm at Mohale's Hoek and Semonkong (see Table 1).



Map 1: Actual Cumulative Rainfall May - July 2008

Cumulative Rainfall since May 2008

Map 1 depicts spatial distribution of cumulative rainfall, and shows that eastern parts of the country have accumulated lowest rainfall since May. Although July was very dry, cumulative rainfall for the period starting May ending July 2008 is above normal at most places. That is brought about by the high rainfall during the months of May and June. It is however, important to note that the eastern parts of the country have consistently recorded relatively poor rainfall since May.



Map 2: Cum. Rainfall % Departure from normal May-July 08

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Temperatures

Monthly mean temperatures were normal at most places during the month of July 2008. They were above normal at Thaba-Tseka, Semonkong and Qacha's Nek. Mean temperature deviations range

from -0.6°C at Butha-Buthe to 1.6°C at Qacha's Nek (see Table 1).

Crop Stage and Conditions

Harvesting of cereals continued into the month of July at some places.

Dry spells which the country experienced during the month of July have affected winter cropping negatively. Crop developments have been affected. High temperatures especially in the eastern parts of the country have increased impacts of dry spells.

Some farmers have started to prepare land. The seasonal outlook for July – September (see below) is still maintained and being in the second month of the three month period, it expected that wet weather conditions will still come during the remaining months.

Weather Outlook (July – September 2008)

Most parts of Lesotho will receive normal to above-normal rainfall for July to September 2008 season. Most parts of the Lowlands and the southeastern Highlands are forecasted to have above-normal to normal rainfall during July -

September (JAS). Temperatures are expected to remain generally around the normal category.

REFER TO THE TABLE BELOW FOR A SUMMARY TABLE

Table 1

Station Name	ALT. (M)	Monthly R/Days	Monthly Rainfall (mm)		Cumulative R/Fall since May 2008			Temperatures		
			Monthly R/Fall	Normal R/Fall	Actual R/Fall	Normal R/Fall	% Dep. from Normal	Monthly Mean Actual	Normal	Deviation
Butha-Buthe	1770	0	0	9.6	98.5	55.7	77	7.3	7.9	-0.6
Leribe	1740	*	*	7.9	*	43.7	*	*	7.7	*
Mafeteng	1610	0	0	9.7	75.8	50.5	50	8.0	8.2	-0.2
Mejametalana	1530	0	0	8.6	94.8	46.1	106	8.6	8.1	0.5
Mohale's Hoek	1600	2	1.3	10.1	90.4	52.1	74	8.7	8.6	0.1
Mokhotlong	2200	1	0.2	5.5	32.6	25.4	28	5.9	5.4	0.5
Moshoeshoe 1	1628	1	0.2	6.9	93.8	42.9	119	8.5	8.3	0.2
OxBow	2660	*	*	15.4	*	80.5	*	*	1.1	*
Phuthiatsana	1750	0	0	7.5	83.9	47.1	78	9.5	9.3	0.2
Qacha's Nek	1970	0	0	11.2	38.8	42.3	-8	9.8	8.2	1.6
Quthing	1740	1	0.5	12.1	85.4	65	31	9.2	8.6	0.6
Semonkong	2458	1	1.3	12.3	97.9	51.2	91	4.1	3.3	0.8
Thaba-Tseka	2160	0	0	6.9	47.2	27.9	69	6.7	5.6	1.1