



LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

We are at your service. Re sebelise



Agro-Met Monthly Update:

June 2008

Date of issue: July 2008

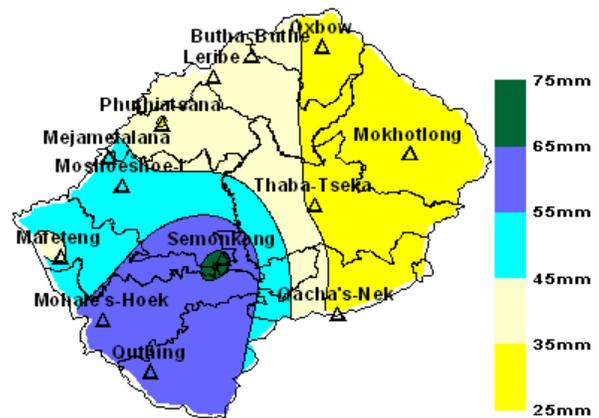
Highlights

1. Good rainfall experienced countrywide
2. Above normal mean monthly temperatures experienced
3. harvesting continued into the reporting period

Rainfall

Monthly Actual Rainfall

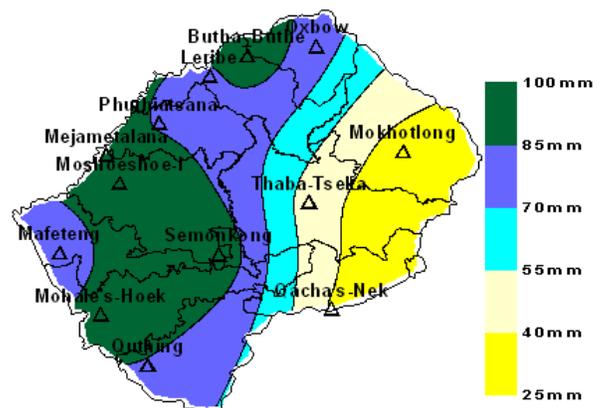
The month of June was very wet. Monthly rainfall for the month was above normal country wide. Monthly rainfall amounts exceeded double amounts of normal rainfall (see Table 1). Highest and lowest monthly rainfall was recorded at Semonkong (67.3mm) and Mokhotlong (27.6mm) respectively. Rain days range from the highest value of five days at most places to a lowest value of two days at Leribe (see Table 1).



Map 1: June 2008 Monthly Rainfall

Cumulative Rainfall since May 2008

Cumulative rainfall for the period starting May ending June 2008 is above normal country wide (see Map 2 & Table 1). Cumulative rainfall is more in the western parts of the country than in the east. Qacha's Nek (24%), Quthing (67%) and Mokhotlong (62%) have the lowest cumulative rainfall percentage departure from normal.



Map 2: Cumulative Rainfall (May - June 2008)

Temperatures

Monthly mean temperatures were above normal during the month of June 2008. Mean temperature deviations were more than 1°C at most places. Lowest temperature deviations as shown in Table

1 were experienced at Butha-Buthe (0.8°C), Mohale's Hoek (0.8°C) and Moshoeshoe 1 (0.9°C).

Crop Stage and Conditions

Harvesting of main cereal crops (maize and sorghum) continued during the month of June. Wet conditions during this winter should encourage farmers to engage in winter cropping. Some farmers have started to use this advantage of good soil moisture to plant wheat and peas. The seasonal outlook as stated below is in favour of

good season and to support crops. However, temperatures which are expected to significantly start increasing in August can put stress on soil moisture.

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 will 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	Monthly Mean Normal	Deviation
Butha-Buthe	1770	3	38.2	11.9	98.4	37.1	165	8.5	7.7	0.8
Leribe	1740	2	38.5	12.2	81.5	35.8	128	8.8	7.5	1.3
Mafeteng	1610	3	44.1	13.9	75.8	40.8	86	8.7	8.1	0.6
Mejametalana	1530	4	50.8	11.6	93.5	37.3	151	9.3	8.1	1.2
Mohale's Hoek	1600	5	60	18.1	90.2	41.8	116	9.2	8.4	0.8
Mokhotlong	2200	3	27.6	7.6	32.4	20	62	6.4	5.4	1.0
Moshoeshoe 1	1628	3	47	11.9	93.8	36.3	158	9.3	8.4	0.9
OxBow	2660			20.3		65.3			1.2	
Phuthiatsana	1750	3	34.4	15.7	83.9	39.8	111	10	8.8	1.4
Qacha's Nek	1970	5	31.6	15.8	38.3	31	24	9.6	8	1.6
Quthing	1740	4	64.8	19.9	84.1	50.4	67	9.4	8.2	1.2
Semonkong	2458	5	67.3	13.1	97.9	39	151	5.1	3.3	1.8
Thaba-Tseka	2160	5	32.8	7.6	47.2	21	125	6.7	5.7	1.0