



# LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

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Agro-Met Monthly Update:

June 2010

Date of issue: July 2010

## Highlights

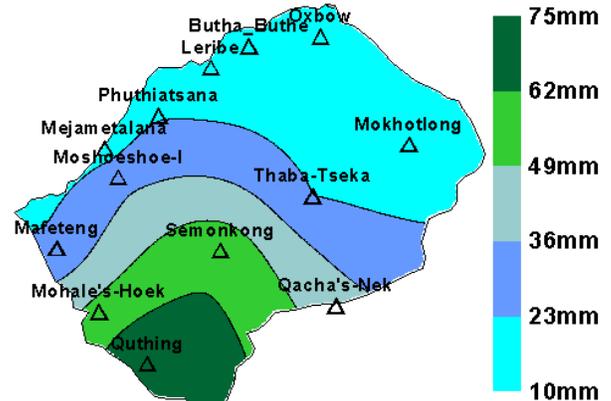
1. Normal to above normal monthly rainfall experienced in most places
2. Normal mean monthly temperatures experienced
3. Below normal to normal winter rainfall forecasted
4. Normal to above normal winter temperatures forecasted

## Rainfall

### *Monthly Actual Rainfall*

June 2010 experienced wet weather conditions. The month recorded normal to above normal rainfall. A big portion of the rainfall was recorded on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Butha-Buthe and Leribe recorded normal rainfall while the rest of the country recorded above normal rainfall. (See Map 1)

The highest and lowest recorded monthly rainfall range from 13mm at Leribe to 72.2mm at Quthing respectively. Rain days range from two at Mohale's Hoek and Mokhotlong to four at a number of places.

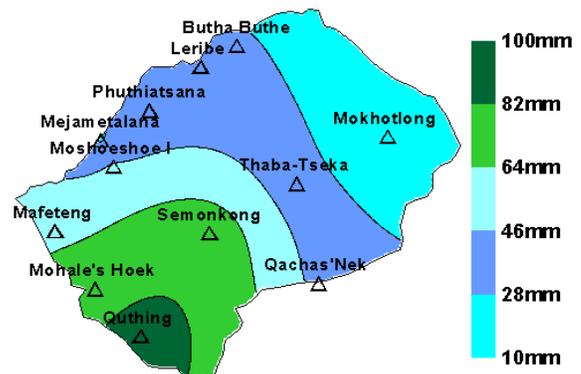


Map 1: June 2010 Monthly Rainfall

### *Cumulative Rainfall from May to June 2010*

Cumulative rainfall for the period under review varies from below normal through normal to above normal in different places. The southern and south-eastern parts of the country received above normal, the northern and north-eastern parts recorded below normal and the western central parts recorded normal rainfall.

Mokhotlong has recorded the lowest cumulative rainfall amount of 16.1mm while Quthing has recorded the highest cumulative rainfall amount of 90.1mm.



Map 2: Cumulative Rainfall from May to June 2010

### Temperatures

Mean monthly temperatures in many places were normal in June. Temperatures were lowest in many places from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>, with the lowest temperature of -12°C recorded on the 22<sup>nd</sup> at Phuthiatsana. Temperatures improved towards the end of June.

Highest and lowest mean monthly temperature deviations were 0.9°C and -3.7°C at Quthing and Moshoeshoe I respectively.

### Crop Stage and Conditions

Harvesting continued during the period under review. The rainfall recorded this month has

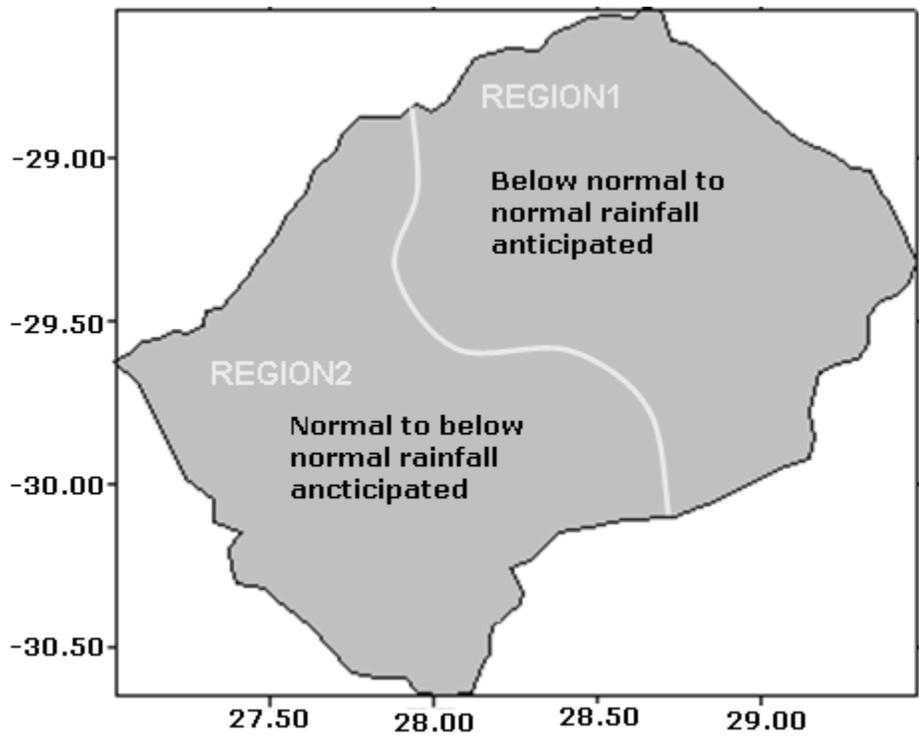
provided sufficient moisture for the winter cropping.

### Weather Outlook (May – July 2010)

Compared to the previous winter season May-July 2009 where above normal to normal rainfall was observed, this winter season May-July 2010, below normal to normal rainfall is anticipated. The region (shown as REGION1 in Figure 2) that covers the northern lowlands of Leribe and Buthe-Buthe including the highlands of Thaba-Tseka, Mokhotlong and the eastern parts of Qacha's Nek are likely to receive below normal to normal winter rainfall. The rest of the region (shown as REGION2 in Figure 2) covering the lowlands of Berea, Maseru, Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek and Quthing including the

highlands of Semonkong and the western parts of Qacha's Nek is likely to receive normal to below normal winter rainfall. Moreover, it is forecast that normal to above normal winter temperatures are likely to be experienced during this period.

The winter crops such as wheat and peas are less likely to be affected by the above rainfall situation as occasional passage of cold fronts will result in moisture supply enough to sustain agricultural activities.



**Figure 2: May – July Forecast**