



LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

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Agro-Met Monthly Update:

October 2009

Date of issue: November 2009

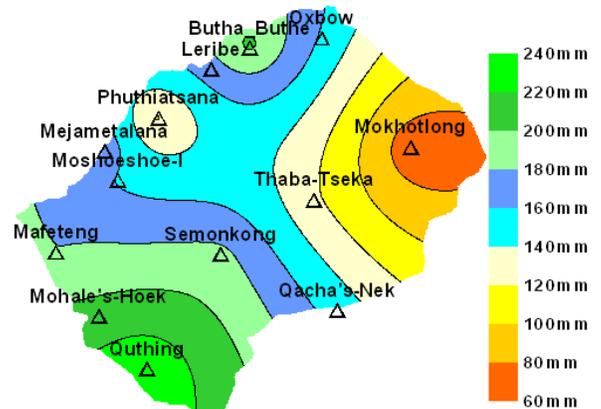
Highlights

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Above normal rainfall recorded 2. Below normal mean temperatures experienced |
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Rainfall

Monthly Actual Rainfall

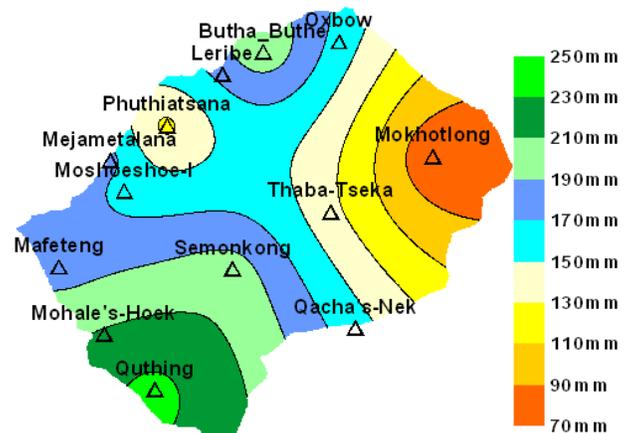
The month of October 2009 was extremely wet. Above normal rainfall was experienced countrywide except at Mokhotlong where it was normal. The highest monthly rainfall was 235.1mm (347% of normal) at Quthing, while lowest monthly rainfall of 66.9mm (106% of normal) of normal at Mokhotlong (see Map 1). The second dekad of the month was the notably very wet.



Map 1: October 2009 Rainfall

Cumulative Rainfall since September 2009

Accumulated rainfall for the period September – October 2009 was slightly below normal at Mokhotlong, normal at Phuthiatsana, and above normal at remaining places. Map 2 shows the actual accumulated rainfall since September. Bulk of the rainfall was recorded in the southern parts of the country, while least rainfall was recorded in the northeastern parts of the country.



Map 2: Sept. - Oct. 09 Cumulative Rainfall

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Temperatures

Monthly mean temperatures were below normal countrywide. The precipitation, wet surfaces and

passage of frontal systems lowered temperatures during the month.

Crop Stage and Conditions

Summer cropping has commenced due to relatively good soil moisture accumulated from above normal rains this month. However, some land was waterlogged due to high rainfall accumulated during the month.

eastern parts are highly likely to receive above normal to normal rainfall in October to December 2009. It is expected that there will be significant reduction of rainfall in these areas during the period of January to March 2010; where below normal rainfall will be experienced.

Seasonal Forecast (October 09 – March 10)

There is a high likelihood of the country to receive below normal rainfall especially in the west and southern parts of the country. The areas in the south west and in the south are expected to receive below normal rainfall for entire rainfall season (October 2009, up to March 2010). Nevertheless, the north and

Compared to the year 2008/09 rainfall season, the year 2009/10 rainfall season is highly likely to experience less rainfall occurrences and lengthy dry spells which are likely to have negative impacts in agriculture, water and other weather sensitive sectors.