



**Oct 2022 – Mar 2024
Progress Report**



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Progress Report Executive Summary

Since the last supervision mission, the project has fast-track implementation of the key activities that were holding the progress. The engagement of Coalition Building Service Provider Under Component A is the key procurement issues which pave a way for many project activities. The project has successfully engaged Sentebale and Avocado to undertake this assignment. To-date they have presented their inception report and there has been an onboarding workshop for all other partners to ensure that they understand their roles and responsibilities. As part of the preparations for the work of the SP, local authorities of the project areas were taken to peer-to-peer learning visits within the country. These triggered voluntary brush control activities in most sub-catchments; notably Let'sa-la-letsie in Quthing and sub catchments of Qacha's Nek Leribe and Botha-bothe.

Nature4Water has also been successfully engaged to design the regeneration opportunities fund which has been long standing. Their work has been categorised in three work streams; Workstream A focuses on the design of the fund itself and the first draft design report has been presented. Workstream B focuses on the compendium of Nature Based Solutions that can be used for sustainable land management practices. In this workstream a training of PMU and other stakeholders about the scientific modelling of Nature-based Solutions was conducted. There was also characterization of the sub-catchments for the purposes of selecting 5 sub-catchments that will be visited and profiled with the goal of selecting the final 3 sub-catchments for the pilot NbS. Workstream C is mainly focused on investigating the possibilities of carbon trading. This stream has not yet started.

Under Component C the key engagements were the engagement of service providers to undertake the project baseline survey and for the development of MIS. The baseline survey has been completed pending final report whilst the MIS work was extended over a period of a month.

With regard to finances the project has been able to access finances from IFAD and OPEC. There has been challenges in accessing counterpart funds from GOL. Designated accounts for GEF and ROF have been open hence the project shall be able to access those funds in the coming financial year.

Abbreviation & Acronyms

AWPB	Annual Work Plan and Budget
B&PAWG	Biodiversity and Protected Area Working Group
BCC	Bilateral Coordination Committee
BSWG	Bilateral Security Working Group
CBL	Central Bank of Lesotho
CBSP	Coalition Building Service Provider
CHWG	Cultural Heritage Working Group
CORB	Cubango-Okavango River Basin
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CWT	Community Watershed Team
DPIT	District Project Implementation Team
DSA	Daily Subsistence Allowance
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
GA	Grazing Associations
GFM	Gender Family Model
GM	Graduation Model
ICM	Integrated Catchment Management
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture Development
LHDA	Lesotho Highlands Development Authority
LLWSDP	Lesotho Lowlands Water and Sanitation Development Project
MDTFCA	Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation Area
MDTP	Maloti-Drakensburg Transfrontier Programme
MDTP	Maloti-Drakensburg Transfrontier Programme
MEF	Ministry of Environment and Forestry
N4W	Nature for Water
NbS	Nature-based Solutions
NRM	Natural Resource Management
ONR	Ongeluksnek Nature Reserve
PMU	Project Management Unit
RCF	Regeneration Coalition Facility
ROF	Regeneration Opportunities Fund
ROLL	Regeneration of Landscapes and Livelihoods
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TFCA	Trans Frontier Conservation Area
TWG	Tourism Working Group
VGAs	Village Grazing Associations



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Description

1. The Regeneration of Landscapes and Livelihoods (ROLL) project is an eight-year project that runs from June 2022 to May 2030, with the main objective of improving environmental and socio-economic conditions in selected rural landscapes of Lesotho. The ROLL Project Development Objective is to ensure that rural communities adopt transformational practices for regenerated landscapes and sustainable livelihoods leading to improved nutrition and adaptation to climate change. This is underpinned by four outcomes, which are 1. Changed resource use practices, 2. Reduction of environmental degradation, 3. Improved livelihoods and 4. An effective and efficient facility and fund for landscape regeneration in place. This will be necessary to achieve the first three outcomes and create a framework and corresponding incentives for landscape regeneration that is innovative and sustainable beyond the project lifetime.
2. The project will among other things work on strengthening the regulatory and policy frameworks influencing its mandate, together with the Government and other donors supporting environmental management and restoration of landscapes for climate resilience. ROLL will introduce a Landscape Graduation Model to guide coalitions and project implementers in determining the best strategy to regenerate the landscape (Component A), and to determine eligibility conditions for support from the Fund (Component B). The landscape graduation model combines an integrated biophysical, socio-economic, and institutional assessment of landscape and community status, with a progressive intervention strategy to help communities and landscapes graduate, respectively, from impoverished and highly degraded levels to positively sustainable levels.
3. ROLL has three components namely, Component A: Regeneration Coalition Facility (RCF). Under this component, different interest groups in a landscape will be brought together, under the umbrella of a landscape coalition. In all landscapes, it is foreseen that there will be multiple interest groups (large livestock farmers, poor households with little assets ownership, traditional authorities, local authorities, etc.) and their usage of natural resources is highly variable as is their impact on the environment.
4. Key activities under this Component include: (i) mobilising communities and developing coalitions, (ii) coalitions to assess their landscapes and propose landscape development plans, (iii) technical assistance for the landscape assessments, planning and plan-submission, and (iv) nutrition activities. In addition (v) cross-cutting activities relating to the engagement of youth, women, and vulnerable groups in line with the project targeting strategy.
5. Component B: Regeneration Opportunities Fund (ROF), ROF's objective is to catalyse investments into the regeneration of landscapes. The Fund will be set up as an efficient

Table 1: List of selected sub-catchments and landscapes for start-up of project interventions

District	Constituency	Council	Landscapes	Sub-Catchment
Thaba-Tseka	Thaba-Tseka	Litsoetse	Litsoetsoe	SC 30
	Mants'onyane	Denezulu	Mants'onyane	SC 28
	Mashai	Linakeng	Mashai	SC 35
Leribe	Maliba-Mats'o	Mphorosane	Lejone-Matsoku	SC 17
	Thaba-Phats'oa	Bolahla	Tsoinyane	CC 6
	Mphosong	Bolahla	Koasa-Mphosong Tsoinyana	SC 9
Berea	Khafung, Makoroana, Malimong	Phuthiatsana, Mapoteng, Tebe-Tebe	Ha Nts'ang	SC 60
	Ts'oana-Makhulo &Thuathe	Senekane & Motanasela	Nchela- Matholoana	SC 23
	Mosalemane, Bela- Bela	Makeoane, Kueneng	Mamatebele	SC 13
Qacha's nek	Tsoelike	Tsoelikana	Mosuo Mapakising	SC 47
	Qacha's Nek	Qanya	Matee	SC 48
	Lebakeng & Qacha's nek	Qanya & Ntsupe	Milikane	SC 40
Botha-Bothe	Mechechane	Ngoajane	Qholaqhoe	SC 65
	Hololo	Likila	Marakabei-Hololo	SC 63
	Motete	Nqoe	Motinkane	SC 03
Quthing	Qhoali	Mphaki	Lets'a-la-Letsie	SC 52

1.2 The AWPB (2022/2024)

9. The Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) describes and budgets for project activities that are necessary to be implemented over a defined period. The AWPB under the reporting period is the 18 months AWPB (October 2022 – March 2024). A work plan provides one common vision for all stakeholders and a single operational framework within which ROLL developed its implementation approach. Activities in AWPB work plan included both the once-off and periodic activities required for project start-up (such as developing training materials) and the recurring activities that must be implemented regularly, at defined intervals, to ensure the continued operation of the project (e.g., processing routine monitoring data).

1.3 About this Progress Report

10. This progress report will cover implementation progress achieved in the period 1st October 2022 to 31st March 2024. This annual progress report is the first since the

project moved out of start-up. The key activities covered Mainly include engagement of the key service providers that are key to Implementation.

2. SUMMARY OF IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS TO DATE

2.1 Financial Progress Summary

Table2: Utilization Status by Financier by Component

Regeneration of Landscapes and Livelihoods Project - Lesotho					
AWPB Revised - Budget analysis by Financing agreement Financial Year From 2022/10/01 To 2024/03/31					
Code	Description	Actual	Budget	Available	Exec (%)
	GEF Grant				
B	Component B - Purpose: Regeneration Opportunities Fund			0,00	
C	Component C - Purpose: Project Coordination, Monitoring and		128 251,00	128 251,00	
	TOTAL GEF Grant	0,00	128 251,00	128 251,00	0,00
F1	FAO Grant				
A	Component A - Purpose: Regeneration Coalition Facility			0,00	
	TOTAL FAO Grant	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
G1	GoL Counterpart				
A	Component A - Purpose: Regeneration Coalition Facility	142 333,72	269 953,16	127 619,44	0,53
B	Component B - Purpose: Regeneration Opportunities Fund		5 862,50	5 862,50	0,00
C	Component C - Purpose: Project Coordination, Monitoring and	134 943,94	373 890,32	238 946,38	0,36
	TOTAL GoL Counterpart	277 277,66	649 705,98	372 428,32	0,43
I1	IFAD Loan HC				
A	Component A - Purpose: Regeneration Coalition Facility	633 518,15	1 035 944,73	402 426,58	61,15
B	Component B - Purpose: Regeneration Opportunities Fund	523,10	121 098,08	120 574,98	0,43
C	Component C - Purpose: Project Coordination, Monitoring and	248 961,53	465 954,68	216 993,15	53,43
	TOTAL IFAD Loan HC	883 002,78	1 622 997,49	739 994,71	0,54
I2	IFAD Loan BT				
A	Component A - Purpose: Regeneration Coalition Facility	323 510,28		-323 510,28	
B	Component B - Purpose: Regeneration Opportunities Fund	9 991,03		-9 991,03	
C	Component C - Purpose: Project Coordination, Monitoring and	331 331,66		-331 331,66	
	TOTAL IFAD Loan BT	664 832,97	0,00	-664 832,97	#DIV/0!
	TOTAL IFAD LOAN	1 547 835,75	1 622 997,49	75 161,74	0,95
O1	OFID Loan 15104P				
A	Component A - Purpose: Regeneration Coalition Facility	78 805,52	278 091,62	199 286,10	28,34
C	Component C - Purpose: Project Coordination, Monitoring and	231 837,50	1 179 505,56	947 668,06	19,66
	TOTAL OFID Loan 15104P	310 643,02	1 457 597,18	1 146 954,16	0,21
	GRAND TOTAL	2 135 756,44	3,858 551,65	1 722 795,21	0,55

Table3: Utilization Status by Component

AWPB Revised - Budget analysis by Component : Period From 2022/10/01 To 2024/03/31 - DCC : 01 ROLL PMU					
Code	Description	Actual	Budget	Available	Exec (%)
A	Component A - Purpose: Regeneration Coalition Facility	1 178 167,67	1 583 989,51	405 821,84	0,74
B	Component B - Purpose: Regeneration Opportunities Fund	10 514,13	126 960,58	116 446,45	0,08
C	Component C - Purpose: Project Coordination, Monitoring and	947 074,63	2 147 601,56	1 200 526,93	0,44
	Total	2 135 756,44	3 858 551,65	1 722 795,21	0,55

11. Table 2 above depicts utilization budget performance against the 18-months AWPB which ran from 01 October 2022 to 31 March 2024. The overall cumulative expenditure for the mentioned reporting period is **USD2,135,756.44**, standing at the rate of 55%. This reported low utilization of funds is mainly accruing from late engagement of the Project's key service providers such as Coalition Building, Baseline Survey MIS and Development of Regeneration Opportunities Fund (ROF) partner. Although the SPs mentioned are now on board, most of their deliverables anticipated to have been completed during this reporting period, are still outstanding, resulting in low utilization of funds.
12. The Regeneration Coalition Facility, **Component A** utilization rate is at 74% from which IFAD loan standing at 65%, GoL 53%, OFID 28% and 0% FAO and GEF due to non-accessibility of funds in the reporting period. Regeneration Opportunities Fund, **Component B**, is at 8% coming from IFAD loan only. Project Coordination and Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management, **Component C** is at 44% derived from IFAD Loan 99%, OFID 20% & GoL counterpart contribution of 36%. The biggest budget burners have been payment of: Vehicles, salaries, Corporate Identity consultancy, office running costs followed by Trainings & Workshops categories. The above reported expenditure received financing from IFAD, GoL and OPEC Fund only. The project was not able to access any funds from GEF due to the absence of its corresponding designated accounts, and absence of signed MoU with FAO.

2.2 Physical Progress Summary (against log-frame)

Table 3: Progress on Log-frame

<i>Results Hierarchy</i>	Indicator	Year Target	Results	Cumulative
<i>Outreach</i>	Estimated corresponding total number of households members reached	20000	4545	4545
	Corresponding number of households reached	4000	909	909
	Persons receiving services promoted or supported by the project	17500	1337	1337
	Female			
	Youth			
<i>Formation of coalitions through participation</i>	Number of coalitions built/strengthened	300	0	0
	ASAP+ 1. Poor smallholder household members supported in coping with the effects of climate change	0	864	864
<i>Groups trained in landscape management</i>	Total size of groups - Number of people	10000	1337	1337
	Groups supported – number of Groups	700	46	46
<i>3.1.4 Land brought under climate-resilient practices</i>	Hectares of land - Area (ha)	25 000	45.51	45.51
<i>3.1 Improved nutrition awareness</i>	1.1.8 Households provided with targeted support to improve their nutrition:	3500	465	465
	Total persons participating - Number of people	3500	864	864
	Female	2100	512	512
	Youth	700	193	193

3. DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS BY COMPONENTS

3.1. Component A: Regeneration Coalition Facility



3.1.1 Sub-Component 1.1: Landscape Level Coalition Building

District Level Implementation Coordination

District Project Implementation Team (DPIT) Sitings

13. This is a hybridized district level structure that constitutes all Subject Matter Specialists from relevant Ministries involved in the implementation of NRM related project like ROLL. It also includes key players involved in implementation as per project needs such as Service Provider representative, non-governmental organizations, projects and Community Council Secretaries. The overall goal of this team is to provide operational guidance and coordination to project implementation at district level and it is expected to convene monthly for progress review and planning.
14. The overall performance of holding DPIT meetings has been very low in some districts except Quthing where the projects' administrative structure was already in place. For the other districts, the DPIT structures had to be mobilized, established and capacitated first. The following are key resolutions achieved through these DPIT meetings:
- Verification of DPIT members per district. Some key stakeholders were not included in the list of expected DPIT members, hence through these meetings, they were included
 - Establishment of the working modalities per district.
 - Harmonizing the projects activities to those of different Ministries
 - Review the TORs for the DPIT teams.

Table 4: DPIT meetings by District

District	Number of DPIT Meetings	Targeted Number of DPIT Meetings
Botha-Bothe	4	12
Leribe	3	12
Berea	3	12
Thaba-Tseka	2	12
Qacha'snek	3	12
Quthing	10	12
Total	24	72

Implementers Meetings

15. Over and above DPIT meetings, the project established a platform where it convenes representatives of implementers (Co-chairs of DPIT) from the six districts in one place on a quarterly basis to discuss implementation challenges and opportunities facing the

project and also to allow cross fertilization across districts. Only one meeting has been successfully held thus far. The meeting has helped the project to identify challenges/bottlenecks and apply remedial measures with heads of key ministries before engaging district technical officers. It is also used to verify the progress report before being presented to the TAC. The structure has proven to be fundamental in building ownership on decisions taken and promoting collective responsibility.



Engagement of Coalition Building Service Provider-CBSP

16. The project has successfully engaged Sentebale and Avocado Vision as its CBSP. Since its engagement several activities have come into play. Key activities undertaken thus include the onboarding workshop where the main objective was to bring abreast Sentebale and Avocado Vision on the project, its objectives and outcomes and how the project plans to achieve all its desired results. The workshop was executed in a multistakeholder workshop where other project key stakeholders were inducted on the project.

17. CBSP together with the other three ROLL partners work in a very much interlinked and interdependent way and as such the success of effectively implementing their certain activities as spelled out in their ToRs is much dependent on the other. It was therefore imperative that the an onboarding workshop was conducted for these institutions & other key implementers so that the roles & responsibilities of each are fully understood across board. Through this approach, areas of collaborations/ partnerships and synergies were as easily be identified and this will help minimize conflicts and foster a good working relation during the project implementation.

18. The second milestone was development and presentation of Inception Report to ROLL project stakeholders. The Inception report covered ground on how the CBSP will approach the coalition building, how they plan to mobilize communities and IGs into regeneration coalitions. Overall stakeholders were in agreement with the CBSP on how he proposes to approach his assignment under ROLL and how they plan to work and engage all stakeholders as they undertake this assignment.
19. This engagement of the CBSP took longer than expected and had such a negative impact on the stride that the project was expected to have achieved by this time of reporting. Amid the late Even though the engagement of the CBSP has been delayed, several strides have been made through project staff and key implementing stakeholders to lay ground for CBSP. Activities undertaken include profiling and mobilization of Interest groups, mobilisation of the local authorities and the key implementing stakeholders at both central and district levels, sensitization of communities and capacity building of local leaders and the interest groups.

Sensitizations

Community leaders' sensitization and mobilization

20. This section covers sensitization and mobilization of chiefs and community councils in the project areas. This was intended to secure their participation and support in project implementation. Though all district and community councils were sensitized about the project, there is still a need to increase coverage for chiefs. Local Authorities take an integral role in natural resources management and project implementation. The table below indicates the number of local authorities that were sensitized and mobilized.

Table 4: Community Leaders Sensitization and Mobilization

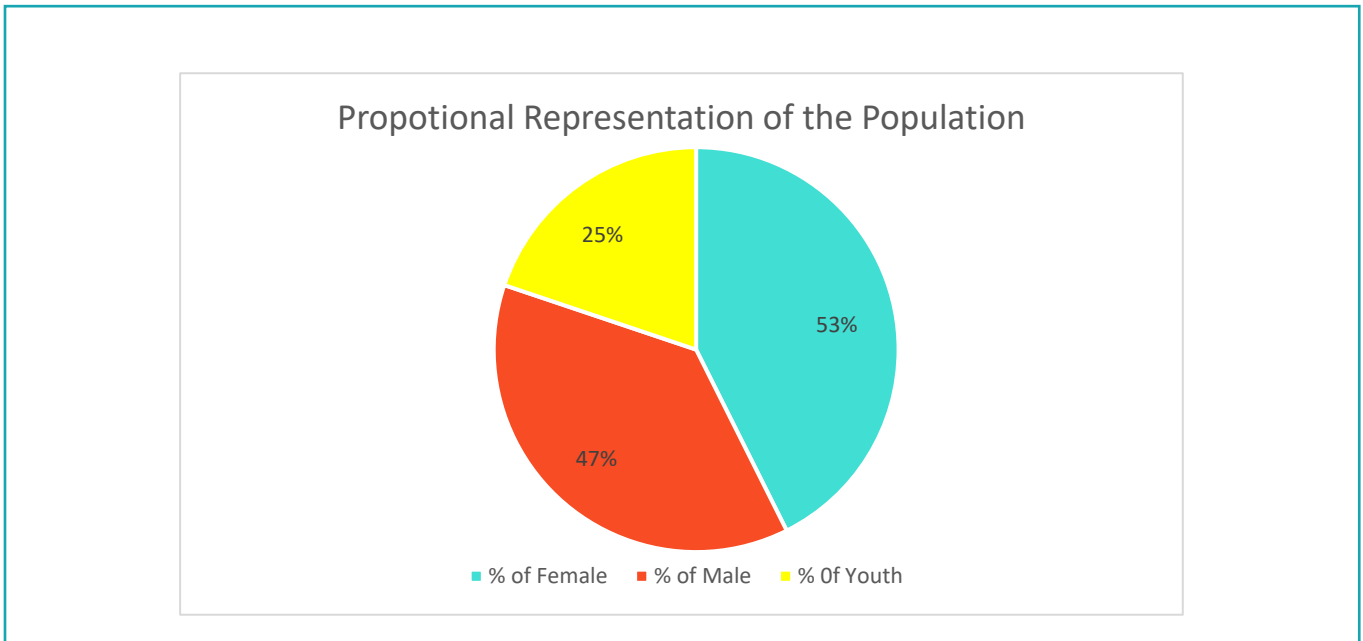
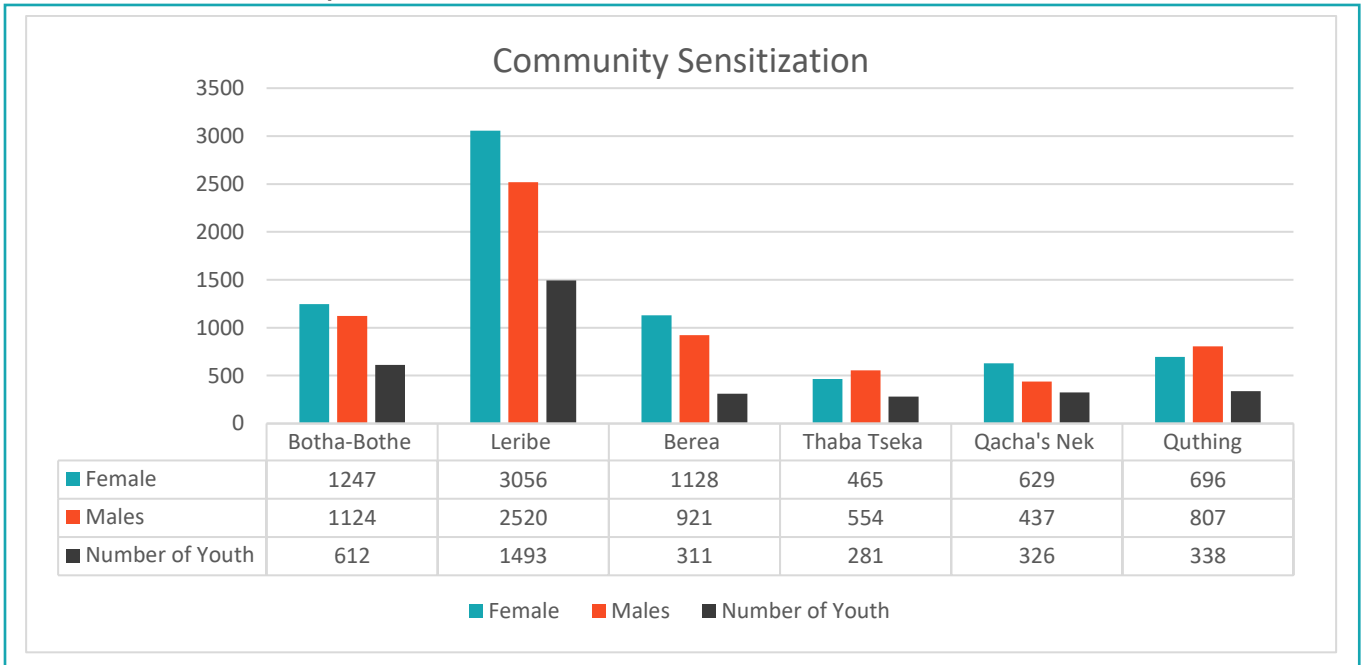
Districts	Female	Male	Youth	Total
Botha-Bothe	66	82	14	148
Leribe	113	123	58	236
Berea	119	98	19	217
Thaba-Tseka	0	24	0	24
Qacha's Nek	52	54	13	106
Quthing	89	164	5	253
Total	459	545	114	984

21. Table 4 above shows that a total of 984 community leaders (Principal Chiefs, Area Chiefs, Community Councillors etc). The Thaba Tseka District recorded the lowest number of community leaders sensitized this mainly being attributed to the absence of PFO in that District.

Community sensitization

22. The project engaged in a robust exercise of sensitizing communities across its 17 sub-catchments. This activity came soon after sensitization and mobilization of community leaders. The main objective of these sensitizations was to introduce ROLL project to communities ahead of implementation. Figure 2 and 3 above gives representation of woman, men and youth met during this process. In line with the project targeting strategy the project was able to reach 53% of woman which above the minimum requirement of 40%. Also 23% of youth were met which is slightly above the target of 20%.

FIGURE 2: Community Members Sensitized



Identification of Interest Groups within ROLL Project site

Interest Groups Profiled

23. ROLL is a natural resources management project that takes cognizance of the importance of nutrition and production groups to sustain the livelihoods of the communities, that is why it becomes important for the project to profile the interests groups found within the communities to determine the status of each group in terms of members status, the existence of committee and also to determine whether the group has been registered with law office or under society and cooperative act. The table below provides the interest groups that were profiled in the project sub-catchments in the six districts.

Table 6: Interest Groups Profiled

District	NRM Groups	Nutrition Clubs	SILC Groups	Producer Groups	Other	Total Number of IGs
Botha-Bothe	14	12	15	25	34	100
Leribe	5	17	17	30	38	107
Berea	21	22	14	5	69	131
Thaba-Tseka	6	10	10	9	55	90
Qachas'Nek	9	8	14	10	32	73
Quthing	6	6	2	6	10	30
Total	61	75	72	85	238	531

Interest Groups Identified

24. ROLL advocates for landscape coalition formations to undertake NRM activities within different communities. The success of the RC formation depends mostly on the existence of different community IGs hence identifications already existing IGs in the sub-catchments. It was observed that, Basotho already have organized groups geared towards easy access of services, improving livelihoods and social cohesion. Not many groups focus on Natural Resources management hence a need for mindset change towards sustainable land management. The table below indicates that many groups are in the category of producer groups and other social groups.

25. During interrogation of communities, it was observed that NRM groups are not as many as other groups, but in terms of membership, this category (where it exists); has the highest membership with communities. The identification of Interest Groups and their existence is key to informing the Project about the feasibility of CBSP organizing communities into regeneration coalitions. Table 6 below indicates that a total of 998 groups were identified within the project areas thus far.

Table 6: Interest Groups Identified

District	NRM Groups	Nutrition Clubs	SILC Groups	Producer Groups	Other	Total Number of IGs
Botha-Bothe	18	7	29	37	26	117
Leribe	16	17	123	202	165	523
Berea	18	11	15	55	70	169
Thaba-Tseka	3	2	0	0	0	5
Qachas'Nek	19	9	23	40	63	154
Quthing	8	7	3	5	7	30
Total	82	53	193	339	331	998



Lets'a-la-Letsie sub-catchment management and coordination

Background

26. Lets'a-la-Letsie is a biodiversity hotspot with opportunities to strengthen sustainable tourism as livelihood basis. The area is a Ramsar site yet has high levels of poverty and degradation. The current challenges need to be carefully and prudently addressed to maintain its significance in contributing to national and global ecological benefits. The Lets'a-la-Letsie sub-catchment in Quthing shares administrative boundary with Eastern Cape, South Africa (Ongeluksnek Nature Reserve- ONR). Thus, the sub-catchment forms part of the Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation Area (MDTFCA). The dynamics of the sub-catchment is entirely opposite management styles between the two countries. ROLL aligned and adopted the pre-existing management structures within ministries. Above all, the management of this sub-catchment is influenced by geographical and governance boundaries.

Maloti-Drakensburg Transfrontier Programme (MDTP) Bilateral Coordination Committee (BCC) Meeting

27. This is a national transboundary committee dealing with cross boundary issues related to wildlife and natural resources that extend between Lesotho and South Africa. Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Programme (MDTP) is management structure in South Africa. The objective of the meeting was to present the progress report and plans for the following working groups: 1) Bilateral Security Working Group (BSWG), 2) Tourism Working Group (TWG), 3) Cultural Heritage Working Group (CHWG), and 4) Biodiversity and Protected Area Working Group (B&PAWG) which would affect Project implementation and partnerships with nature-based organizations in South Africa. Another objective was to review the Lets'a-la-Letsie Action plan for Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA). The proposal was made to upgrade MDTP Bilateral MoU to a treaty. This meeting is very important to address the Lets'a-la-Letsie and transboundary issues that may occur between ROLL sub-catchments and South Africa during ROLL Project implementation.

Task Team Meeting

28. A Task Team is a structure at district level- Quthing mandated to oversee coordination of initiatives and to liaise with ONR. This is a team of experts from different ministries responsible for regeneration and management of Lets'a-la-Letsie. This team meets on quarterly basis to monitor performance of key stakeholders in the sub-catchment and South African team on transboundary related issues. Bilateral meetings are conducted quarterly in respective countries. In Lesotho, ROLL facilitates and supports such meetings in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

29. Three meetings were held to revive the team following dormancy, to develop ToRs, to review its workplan and align with ROLL project for regeneration of Lets'a-la-Letsie sub-catchment area. The objectives have not been achieved. This is due to institutional dynamics and having to separate coordination activities from implementation activities which were all performed by task team before ROLL. One bilateral meeting was held to strengthen joint management strategies. One of the prominent challenges is livestock trespassing from Lets'a-la-Letsie into the ONR. It has been resolved that cross-border community sensitisations need to be undertaken with the aim of warning communities about SA increased impoundment fees.

Visit to Lets'a-la-Letsie sub-catchment

30. The success story of Lets'a-la-Letsie is mostly underpinned by strong leadership and political will. As such ROLL found it necessary to organize a meeting and a field visit to Lets'a-la-Letsie sub-catchment for the Principal Chief, Principal Secretary of MEF and Area Chiefs around the project area. The aim was to foster appreciation of project area and to discuss challenges faced by local authorities and communities in this sub-catchment area. It was during this meeting and field visit that the Principal Chief visited the Lets'a-la-Letsie wetland area for the first time in his lifetime.

31. **Outcomes of the visit:** After seeing and hearing the challenges faced by different players and the area under his jurisdiction, the Principal Chief pledged his unwavering support towards the regeneration of the sub-catchment and the livelihoods of communities within it. It was further agreed that it vital to organise another visit during summer.

Environment and Social Impact Assessment at Lets'a-la-Letsie

31. Consultants were engaged by IFAD through GEF finance to undertake an Environmental Social Impact Assessment Study for Lets'a-la-Letsie. The main objective of this study was to assess the socio-economic and biophysical status of the sub-catchment prior to implementation. The study was successfully completed, and a report has been produced and presented to both Ministerial Management and ROLL PMU. This study will serve as a guide for project implementation at Lets'a-la-Letsie and it can be used to other sub-catchments in the project areas

Bilateral Meetings Resolutions

32.out (insert number) district stakeholders' engagement meetings were held with different partners:

- a) One meeting was held with with Education Resource Teacher to undertake visibility survey on potential schools to conduct schools gardening demonstration and nutrition within the three sub-catchments in the Butha buthe district.

- b) Two meetings were attended in Leribe district to promote ROLL project (ICM and district technical staff meetings)
- c) ROLL Botha-Buthe held bilateral meeting with Lesotho Lowland Water and Sanitation Development Project (LLWSDP) to explore areas for collaboration between the projects as they share some work with LLWSDP within Hololo Sub-Catchment District Animal Production Officer (DAPO) in Quthing for relocation of animal DIP tank from Lets'a-la-Letsie. Livestock farmers at wool shearing sheds were also engaged on the matter.
- d) Meeting with Quthing District Projects, Principal Chief and Department of Range Resources Management for mobilizing the Principal Chief. The meeting deliberated that the Principal Chief should take a site visit to Lets'a-la-Letsie sub-catchment for familiarization with condition and challenges.
- e) Meeting with Quthing Wildlife Development Trust to strengthen collaborations and mapping way forward for next bearded vulture bilateral meeting in South Africa to enhance biodiversity monitoring.
- f) Two meetings were conducted with Education on sensitization and planning for the school gardening programme in Quthing. It was learnt that due to past misinterpretation and the school calendar, the activity is not feasible and therefore postponed to 2024.
- g) Leribe District partners such as SADP, RENOKA and Sentebale Socio-economic strengthening project in Leribe district
- h) One on one meetings to forge working relationship with stakeholders were held (2 in Qacha's nek, 2 in Berea, 4 in Leribe, 3 in Quthing and 1 in Botha Buthe)

Natural Resources Management trainings

33. From both the profiled and identified interest groups within the six districts, it came out very clear that the dominating IGs fall within other groups and producer groups and as such, calls for robust mindset change of the communities towards sustainable management of the natural resources. As a steppingstone towards achieving that, ROLL project conducted the trainings on sustainable Management of Natural Resources, legal frameworks governing the use of natural resources and linking Natural resources to nutrition and food security targeting the GAs, beekeepers as well as establishing herders' groups as they are one of the key IGs the project is intentionally targeting on NRM matters. Below is the representation of trainings conducted per districts disaggregated by gender and participation of youth as well.

Table 7: People trained in Sustainable NRM

<i>District</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Youth</i>	<i>Total</i>
Botha-Bothe	17	16	0	33
Leribe	9	18	5	27
Berea	15	13	2	33
Thaba-Tseka	113	268	201	381
Qachas'nek	63	150	82	213

Quthing	17	16	0	33
Total	121	213	89	339

Exposure visits for Local Leaders

34. Mindset change is a continuous and persistent effort that is not often achieved over night. In attempting to ignite and foster mindset change within the communities under which ROLL operates, an exposure visits were undertaken by the five districts, Thaba- Tseka excluded targeting the previously trained NRM groups. Representatives from each NRM group, chiefs and the community councillors were selected to participate on the visit.

35. The overall objective of the exposure visits was to expose the participants to a more practical and successful NRM activities and foster peer to peer learning as they say "seeing is more educational". Additionally, the participants were exposed to localised governance issues as well uplifting their moral towards management of the natural resources. Amongst the key issues they were expected to acquire during the visits are some lessons learned in the implementation of the NRM activities by their predecessors and group dynamics within the IGs. It was also expected therefore that upon return from these trips, they will implement some lessons learned during the exposure visits. The below gives the representation of the participation of the 5 districts.

Table 8: Participants who attended exposure visits:

District	Females	Males	Youth	Total
Botha-Bothe	12	16	2	28
Leribe	11	17	6	28
Berea	5	13	2	18
Thaba-Tseka	0	0	0	0
Qachas'nek	14	14	3	28
Quthing	5	12	2	17
Total	47	72	15	134

36. Quthing districts visited Mokhotlong to learn about Holistic land management approaches and voluntary brush control at Mots'eremeli and the nutrition clubs in Mokhotlong. Botha bothe visited Mohale's hoek and Mafeteng where the Reducing Vulnerability for Climate Change-RVCC and Strengthening Capacity, respectively. On the other hand, Berea district visited Corn Exchange (within Berea) to learn about fodder production to relief the rangelands as well as Ha Khabo in Leribe district where a Community Watershed Teams (CWTs) have been established under ReNoka in ROLL, these are equivalent to landscape regeneration coalitions. In Qacha's nek visited the grazing associations in Sehlabathebe to learn different initiatives made by the association. Last but not least, Leribe visited interest groups in Leribe who are engaged in livelihoods and NRM activities at Tsehlanyane area.

37. **Lessons learned and Outcomes of the exposure visits:** This exposure visits yielded a positive result where the communities have voluntarily engaged in Landscape regeneration. Table below depicts the participants and areas covered due to the motivation from the visits:

Table 9: People Participating in Voluntary NRM

District	Female	Males	Youth	Total
Botha-Bothe	36	121	13	157
Leribe	86	65	47	151
Berea	143	39	22	182
Thaba-Tseka	0	0	0	0
Qacha'snek	269	130	87	486
Quthing	81	67	0	148
Total	346	292	82	638

Table 10: Progress on NRM work Undertaken

District	Brush Control (ha)	Gully Structures (m3)	Reshaping (ha)	Sodding (ha)	Diversion Furrow (m)
Botha-Bothe	7.5	0	0	0	0
Leribe	5.5	54	0	0	0
Berea	13.5	0	0	0	0
Thaba-Tseka	0	0	0	0	0
Qacha'snek	17.8	1825.1	0.0415	0.0493	169.8
Quthing	1.12	0	0	0	0
Total	45.42	1879.1	0.0415	0.0483	169.8

Pilot Biophysical and Socio-Economic Assessment Study

38. The Biophysical and Socio-Economic studies are key to providing baseline data that would help the project to determine its entry point for interventions and serve as reference for project evaluation during implementation. The biophysical and socio-economic assessment studies were piloted in Leribe district; the purpose was to assess the level of land degradation and socio-economic status of the communities within the project areas prior to project interventions. The information was collected on demographic features, soil carbon, vegetation cover, wetlands status, land use and socio-economic status in the three Leribe sub-catchments namely Lejone-Matsoku, Tsoinyane and Koasa-Mphosong. The assessment report was completed, and findings showed a direct correlation between poverty levels and the levels of natural resources and land degradation.

Conferences and Celebrations

39. **Annual Farmers Conference:** An annual conference organised by the Lesotho Wool and Mohair Growers Association was held in Quthing District. The main objective of the conference was to evaluate the performance of the association, its achievement, challenges and development of the roadmap for the next year. Since all the ten districts were represented by the association committee members in this conference, ROLL took advantage of sensitising participants about the project and seek their support to the project initiatives.
40. **National Tree Planting Day:** ROLL also supported the national tree planting day at Ha Lenkoane in Ha Ntsang sub-catchment, the event was very successful, with 6000 forest trees planted, 5000 of which were purchased by the project. This activity created a platform to make communities aware of ROLL project and its objectives towards regenerated landscapes and improved livelihoods.
41. **UNCCD Day Celebration:** UNCCD day was celebrated at Ha Nots'i, within Ha Nts'ang sub-catchment in Berea district under the theme "Her Land, Her rights". Among other land management activities undertaken previously under Poverty Alleviation Programme, the three ladies (biological sisters to be precise) have done a great job in conserving the soil through agroforestry and conservation agriculture. This group serves as the champions of land rehabilitation from which other interest groups, especially women groups could find inspiration going forward with project implementation.

42. **World Bee Day:** The project also supported farmers from the project areas to attend the World Bee Day in Mohale's Hoek district. This celebration is conducted annually with the purpose to bring farmers together to exhibit their bee products and to create a peer-to-peer learning platform. It was very important for ROLL to sponsor farmers from the project area to learn from their peers in other districts. The farmers were inspired and motivated to improve their beekeeping skills.
43. **Green Fest celebration:** ROLL project participated in the Green Fest celebration in Mafeteng district. The event was organised by Limomonane Trust which was aimed at showcasing innovations in a green space by farmers, youth and also planting of fruit & forest trees.
44. **International Dialogue on Climate Smart Rangeland Management:** International Dialogue on Climate Smart Range Land Management was attended on 23rd-24th May 2023. The main purpose was to build concerted efforts to ensure the sustainable use of rangeland resources. The project participated in the panel discussion regarding the project contribution on the mentioned topic. This conference created to an opportunity for realising areas of partnership with the key stakeholders who attended the conference. Participants were very excited to learn about ROLL project and its objectives and were asking questions to seek clarity regarding the project approach and its relationship with other projects such as ICM and WAMPP.

Memorandum of Understanding between ROLL and FAO

45. As a pre-requisite for GEF funds release, ROLL and FAO had to develop MOU on how FAO will support ROLL activities as it was identified as a key potential technical partner during design. Final draft MOU Document has been developed, and it is currently submitted to FAO for signing. FAO is expected to lead the completion of the biophysical and socio-economic assessment activity for remaining five districts and capacitate the district extension staff on nutrition and food system techniques. The signing of the MoU is not yet completed pending the signing by FAO.

Bilateral Meetings Resolutions

46. About (insert number) district stakeholders' engagement meetings were held with different partners:
- a) One meeting was held with with Education Resource Teacher to undertake visibility survey on potential schools to conduct schools gardening demonstration and nutrition within the three sub-catchments in the Butha buthe district.
 - b) Two meetings were attended in Leribe district to promote ROLL project (ICM and district technical staff meetings)

- c) ROLL Butha-Buthe held bilateral meeting with Lesotho Lowland Water and Sanitation Development Project (LLWSDP) to explore areas for collaboration between the projects as they share some work with LLWSDP within Hololo Sub-Catchment District Animal Production Officer (DAPO) in Quthing for relocation of animal DIP tank from Lets'a-la-Letsie. Livestock farmers at wool shearing sheds were also engaged on the matter.
- d) Meeting with Quthing District Projects, Principal Chief and Department of Range Resources Management for mobilizing the Principal Chief. The meeting deliberated that the Principal Chief should take a site visit to Lets'a-la-Letsie sub-catchment for familiarization with condition and challenges.
- e) Meeting with Quthing Wildlife Development Trust to strengthen collaborations and mapping way forward for next bearded vulture bilateral meeting in South Africa to enhance biodiversity monitoring.
- f) Two meetings were conducted with Education on sensitization and planning for the school gardening programme in Quthing. It was learnt that due to past misinterpretation and the school calendar, the activity is not feasible and therefore postponed to 2024.
- g) Leribe District partners such as SADP, RENOKA and Sentebale Socio-economic strengthening project in Leribe district
- h) One on one meetings to forge working relationship with stakeholders were held (2 in Qacha's nek, 2 in Berea, 4 in Leribe, 3 in Quthing and 1 in Butha buthe)

3.1.2 Sub-Component 1.2: Technological and Organisational Innovations

- 47. ROLL intends to utilise innovations and technologies to enhance the management of natural resources, as such, the innovation collection guidelines and template were developed to enable the collection of both indigenous and modern technologies and innovations. This template will form a basis for development of innovation manual under ROF.

3.1.3 Sub-Component 1.3: Improving Community Nutrition

- 48. ROLL as a nutrition sensitive project pursues several activities that are aimed at improving community Nutrition. Therefore, in this reporting period several major activities were done; 1) profiling of the schools to assess potential to be centres of excellence in enhancing education on nutrition related issues and also potential construct demonstrations gardens. 2) Profiling of Nutrition clubs to assess their operational status, 3) training of the nutrition clubs on Post harvest loss, agro processing, food handling and climate smart plots to mention but the few.

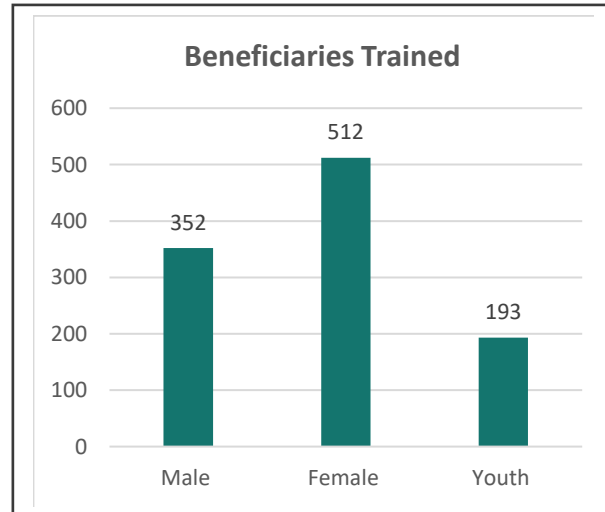
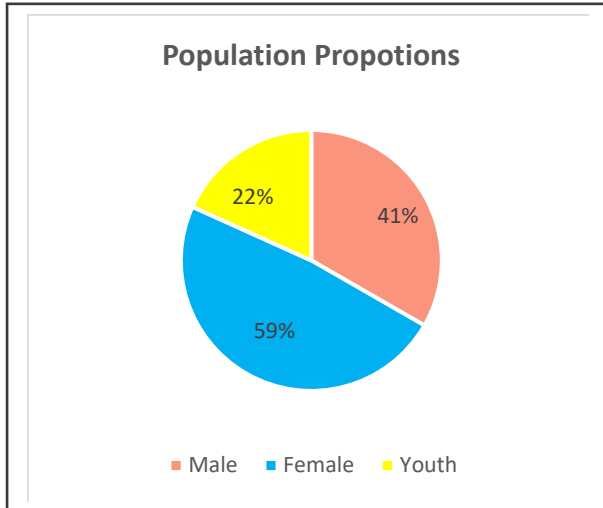
Training on Nutrition

- 49. To improve community nutrition, several nutrition clubs were trained on diversified food production and climate smart gardens as well as nutrition education. The table

below covers trainings held for the newly established nutrition clubs as well as existing ones that were revived. This work was conducted on the same note of the preparations for coalition building.

Table 11: Beneficiaries trained on nutrition.

District	Male	Female	Youth	Total Number of Trainees
Botha - Bothe	11	107	28	118
Leribe	241	63	83	304
Berea	12	94	25	106
Qachas'nek	79	183	41	262
Quthing	6	24	8	30
Thaba - Tseka	3	41	8	44
Total	352	512	193	864



50. Table 12 below shows that 20 Nutrition clubs were established with support from ROLL project, while 18 were revived from a dormant state. This is a huge milestone as pre necessary condition to organizing communities into regenerations coalitions.

Table 12: Nutrition clubs established and revived.

District	# of Newly established	# of revived groups trained
Botha - Bothe	0	7
Leribe	12	5
Berea	2	1
Qachas'nek	8	5
Quthing	0	0
Thaba - Tseka	0	0
Total	20	18

Schools profiling

51. During sensitisation exercises and area chiefs workshop conducted in 2023, primary and high schools were identified. Subsequently, demonstrations on climate smart plots and nutrition education were conducted in some selected schools within the ROLL sub-catchments in the six districts. The statistical representation of number schools identified and conducted demonstrations is as detailed in table below.

Table 13: Schools profiling

District	Primary schools	Post Primary schools	Total	Remarks
Botha-Bothe	14	3	17	School gardening and nutrition profiling was undertaken with Education Inspector in 17 schools and to determine the prospects of schools gardening demonstrations, but the inputs were not provided to carry out the activity
Leribe	26	8	34	More than 50% of profiled schools already started agriculture at small scale hence high possibility for school gardening under ROLL.
Berea	10	5	15	A lot of high schools are actively into agricultural production and have Agriculture among elective subjects taught.
Thaba-Tseka	0	0	0	This activity was affected by the absence of the PFO who passed away.
Qachas'nek	16	4	19	Total not 20 but 19 because the other school is the combined school.
Quthing	0	0	0	Identification and categorization of schools were done but sensitizations and demonstrations were blocked by the District Education office because of misinterpretation by other past stakeholders that caused conflict and lack of trust.
Total	66	20	85	

52. The above table only shows the number of identified schools during public gatherings. There were however some schools within the SCs where schools were sensitized on nutrition education and demonstration on climate smart plots. A total of 6 schools

were capacitated in the Qacha's Nek district, 2 per SCs with a total of 335 students reached. Leribe has conducted demonstrations in 4 schools with a total of 612 students reached.

3.2. Component B: Regeneration Opportunities by Fund (ROF)

53. Regeneration Opportunities Fund (ROF)'s objective is to catalyze investments into the regeneration of landscapes. The Fund will be set up as an efficient and focused mechanism that can continue to function beyond the lifetime of the ROLL project. The ROF will finance coalition plans in the selected landscapes. In doing so, the ROF will serve multiple impact areas that have the potential to attract further capital seeking societal benefits in terms of downstream water provision, biodiversity preservation enhancement and carbon sequestration. In order for ROLL to successfully implement this component, Nature for Water (N4W) has been engaged to assist in with the design of the Regeneration Opportunities Fund (ROF).

54. N4W is a facility established by The Nature Conservancy due to its experience in setting up water funds and Pegasys due to its expertise in designing innovative funding mechanism geared towards natural resources management. To effectively design the ROF and to build a strong business case to catalyse the money into the fund, N4W will undertake baseline assessments such as biophysical assessment of the project sub-catchments and landscapes. Some of the key outputs of the ROF design process is the viability of carbon revenues as well as prioritization & implementation of the nature-based solutions and payment for ecosystem services.

3.2.1. Sub- Component 2.1 Landscape Support Window

This window looks at regeneration of landscapes.

Workstream A- Regeneration Opportunities Fund (ROF) Design

55. Two workshops were held under this workstream. The first workshop was to gather input from ROLL PMU and other stakeholders on how the fund should be designed, in the short run. Relevant case studies and in governance structures of NRM Funds like the Upper Tana, The Greater Cape Water Fund, the Cubango-Okavango River Basin (CORB) were interrogated for the participants to select the most desired structure. The Fund should be incubated under the Government in the short-run but will have to graduate to Public Private partnership in the long-run where the Government will only be engaged at the higher level. This arrangement is likely to attract foreign investment where impact investors will have confidence since they will have a stake in the running of the Fund.

56. The second workshop was the presentation of ROF 1st draft report presented on March 19, 2024. The objective was to have further suggestions for the fund design. It was proposed that progress in the design of the Fund should first be interrogated by the ministry before involvement of other stakeholders and the main custodian of

the project. (2) Furthermore, there should be a meeting to interrogate numerous Funds (Environmental Fund, the envisaged Climate Fund, Forestry fund, financial architecture under ICM) that have been established under the Ministry of Environment and other Government Ministries to unpack similarities and synergies.

57. These funds are looking to tap funds from the same donors. To address this challenge, a consultant is needed to develop a comprehensive Natural Resources Policy to assist in diffusing these numerous funds within the government institutions. The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning should be involved more on the project progress and especially in the fund design to ensure alignment with regulations.

Workstream B- Nature-based Solutions

58. Nature-based Solutions (NbS) is defined as the use of natural processes & biodiversity to address environmental challenges. These interventions will yield economic, social, & environmental benefits arising from the existence & functioning of ecosystems. Two workshops were held under this stream. The purpose of the first workshop was to indoctrinate the PMU and other stakeholders about the scientific modelling of Nature-based Solutions, while the second was to recap on the concept of NbS and characterize the sub-catchments for the purposes of selecting 5 sub-catchments that will be visited and, select the final 3 to pilot NbS. The workplan for the selection exercise is planned for April 2024

Workstream C- Carbon Revenue

59. During the Technical Advisory Committee meeting, it was noted that the ministry and project staff are not conversant with carbon trading issues. It was agreed that to effectively manage and monitor the work of the Fund Designing Partner, there should be training on carbon trading and carbon revenue. The training will be held in the next financial year.

3.2.1. Sub-Component 2.2 Sustainable Enterprises Window

60. This window looks at funding livelihoods enhancing enterprises whose ownership engage in landscapes regeneration initiatives. Since ROF is still at the design stage, there has not been any activities funded through ROF for these funding windows. The designated account with CBL and operations account with the local bank have just been opened. This will allow for the disbursements from ROF to be directed to the 3 funding windows. This calls for N4W to quickly set-up a temporary short-term structure and eligibility criteria per each funding window to administer ROF.

3.2.1. Sub-Component 2.3 Innovations Window

61. For this sub-component, the 2024/2025 AWPB has considered sponsoring master's degree and PhD students and research that align with NRM. Upon the approval of the AWPB, advertisements will be developed to attract prospective students and

institutions to apply for the funding. However, minimum eligibility criteria and terms and conditions will be developed for this window. This window cuts across the country and not only for innovations in the project operation area.

Service providers' Onboarding workshop.

62. The workshop was held on 6-7 February 2024. The purpose of the workshop was to have all stakeholders under one roof to present and explain their roles in the project so that others will determine the synergies, possible overlaps, and collaboration strategies for the attainment of ROLL outcomes.
63. At this workshop N4W, FAO, IFAD, Sentebale & Avocado (CBSP), LHDA, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, CRS, TAC, DPIT and other line Ministries were in attendance. The **world café methodology** was used to harvest maximum participation from the participants. This mode of discussion entails dealing with different themes in groups and rotating around those thematic areas for each stakeholder to express their understanding. This yields a large pool of ideas detailing expectations from different partners.
64. One of the notable products of this workshop was where N4W and CBSP noticed the importance of aligning their activities such that the RCs and IGs should be capacitated in meeting the ROF eligibility criteria for each funding window.

3.3. Component C: Project Management Unit

3.3.1: Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management

3.3.1.1. Knowledge Management

3.3.1.1.1 Developing Project Corporate Identity

65. The project's corporate identity has been developed and used to identify the project in many aspects. Since its development, it has been used to brand the project's corporate clothing, templates, banners, and vehicles. The project corporate identity is intended to guide all the visibility materials that the project would do. The corporate identity manual and other promotional materials like T-shirts and Notebooks produced as part of the ROLL brand guide. The ROLL project has now started procurement of different products that will help to enhance its visibility, these products include project sites signages, car branding and attire for both project staff and key stakeholders involved in the implementation of project activities.

3.3.1.1.2 Knowledge Management and Communication Strategy

66. The Knowledge Management and Communication strategy, describes the objectives, working methods and tools for knowledge management, stakeholder relations and communications. Its main objective is to promote use and or raise awareness of

different knowledge products across diverse audiences. ROLL project is expected to generate a successful innovations, knowledge, and technologies for household farming, adaptation to climate change, natural resource management nutrition and food security. General observation from previous projects and programmes was that information does not reach potential users easily. Therefore, carrying out a more strategic dissemination of the knowledge generated is necessary to promote its widespread application for accountability, learning and decision making, and ensuring that learning continues long after the project has ended. Key audiences should be engaged through well timed and well tailored products on targeted channels using different technologies.

67. The ROLL Knowledge Management and Communication strategy has been developed in close consultation with all key stakeholders. The stakeholder mapping and engagement plan document has been updated in the draft KM and Communication strategy. Even though the strategy has been developed it has not yet been validated with all key stakeholders due to late engagement of CBSP. With the recent engagement of CBSP it is anticipated that within the first quarter of fiscal year 2024/25, the validation workshop will be held.

3.3.1.1.3 Raising Awareness on Importance of NRM.

68. The community sensitisation is a pre-requisite for better understanding of the project, project activities and project overall objectives. It is very effective in bringing awareness among different segments of the community about the project and its implementation modalities. ROLL project embarked on the sensitisation campaigns of various villages of its sixteen sub-catchments across its six districts.

3.3.1.1.4 Developing Visibility Products

69. Project visibility plays a critical role in ensuring the extent to which project stakeholders, team members, and decision-makers have access to relevant and up-to-date information about projects' status, progress, potential risks, resource allocation, and other critical factors. It involves providing transparency and clear communication throughout the entire project delivery process. As such, for ROLL to increase the visibility of the project, social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram pages were designed as one of the mechanisms to share project-related information. Also, as an attempt to enhance the project visibility the project uses Ministry's website for disseminating its information. Other platforms such as print media, Radio and Television are used to disseminate some project related information, the project is also planning to have permanent radio programmes that will help enhance stakeholder's access to information related to ROLL project.

Table 13: Print Media

Name of Newspaper	Number of stories
Lesotho Times	4
Public Eye	4
Informative	7

Lesotho Today	5
The Reporter	2
Total	17

Table 14: Radio and Television Programmes

Radio Programmes	Name of the station	Number
Sebuping	Radio Lesotho	6
Sehoai-Mpotse-ke-u-arabe	Radio Lesotho	4
Re-bitsa-lihoai	Radio Lesotho	18
Motso oa teng	Bokamoso	1
Lehakoe-la-Litaba	Mo-Afrika	2
	Souru (Qacha)	1
Total		32
Television Programme Programme		
Mohoma-temeng	LTV	8
Seotlong	LTV	2
Total		10

3.3.1.1.5 Policy Relevant Knowledge Management Products Developed

70. ROLL will work on strengthening the regulatory and policy frameworks that could impact on its outcomes. Several shortcomings have been identified in the policy and regulatory frameworks pertaining to land and natural resource management and governance in Lesotho that should be addressed to increase the efficiency of landscape rehabilitation. The project will support the national dialogue on NRM governance, which will serve as a base for policy frameworks governing NRM. The event will be in May 2024.

3.3.1.2. Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and Evaluation Manual

71. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Manual is one of the key project's guiding tools to all the project M&E activities. The M&E team together with the relevant stakeholder through consultative participatory approaches has developed the zero and First draft of the M&E Manual. The main elements of the draft manual aim to describe the core elements of the ROLL M&E system, define M&E requirements and processes and contribute to setting standards and ensuring consistency in M&E practices. The M&E manual contains the project Log-Frame, M&E Plan, project Indicators, data collection tools and methods, data flow channels, MIS and M&E responsibilities. Its finalization is mainly attributed to the delayed engagement of the CBSP. CBSP is a key stakeholder in the M&E system as it will play a central/primary role in the ROLL M&E system especially at community level. As such, it is imperative to engage them to contribute into the finalisation of the M&E manual.

72. Now that CBSP has been successfully engaged it planned that in April when all its staff has been recruited the project will start consultative processes that would eventually lead to holding the M&E workshop that will validate the M&E manual. It should be noted that this finalization of the manual is also aligned to the development of Management Information System as such it would be ideal to hold the M&E workshop also when its development is complete.

Developing Monitoring and Evaluation Management Information System

73. Regarding the MIS, the project has successfully engaged Computer Business Solution from November 15, 2023 to March 29, 2024, to assist in the development of the said system. This engagement of this service was greatly delayed due to the fact that the procurement process had to be redone from scratch due to expired bid validity period. As at end of March 2024, the six (6) data collection tools developed have been integrated into the system as well as the results framework and AWPB. The key missing element is to build complementing data collection tools to allow for all indicators to have data on them. The identified tools to be developed are the ones to collect landscape data. These tools will be administered by the Extension Officers in the respective

Ministries (MEF, MAFSN, etc.). The MIS will facilitate data capturing at the field level, linking registration forms to monitoring forms for all categories in data collection.

74. As per the work plan for developing MIS, the following milestones have been achieved: submission of the inception report, analysis of requirements and specifications, and system configuration and development. The pending deliverables are system testing and capacity building. System testing covers functional and integration tests. This is about technical testing of the system to see if it responds to the requirements of the ROLL project. Capacity building covers training of MIS users in implementing ROLL, administration of the system and going live.
75. Given the pending deliverables, the service provider asked for extension of the contract to April 30, 2024. The delay has been due to unforeseen challenges such as delays in reviewing of some of the data capturing forms, locating data sources of some of the results framework indicators, and approval delays. These have affected the original timeline outlined in the contract. The extension is however, yet to be approved.

Undertaking of Baseline Survey

76. One of the Key project activities under M&E was to commission baseline survey that will help in gaining knowledge of the prior implementation situation. The baseline information will allow for demonstration of any progress or regression as base points would have been established. The project after more than 1 year wait, has successfully engaged the Service Provider, Analytica Research Hub and Bigen to conduct the Baseline Survey. The engagement was done in November 23, 2023, with the plan to end in March 21, 2024.
77. The process of undertaking the survey started off with the review and customization of the baseline survey questionnaire that has been developed as per IFAD Core Outcome Indicators guideline. The developed questionnaire had a quantitative focus as such the SP had to develop complementing tools with qualitative focus. In January 2024, the SP presented the Baseline Survey Inception report to stakeholders for validation. This was followed by main data collection which led to production of the first draft of the baseline report. The first draft report was presented in March 2024 to the stakeholders to outline the findings of the survey. To date the SP has been able to deliver on time all deliverable except the submission of the final report. The final draft of the report is yet to be finalised in the month of April 2024.

Review Of the Project Graduation Model

75. ROLL uses a Landscape Graduation Model (GM) to guide landscape coalitions and project implementers in determining the best strategy to regenerate the landscapes and to determine eligibility conditions for support from the ROF. The landscape graduation model combines an integrated biophysical, socio-economic, and institutional assessment of landscapes and community status, with a progressive intervention strategy to help communities and landscapes graduate from highly degraded and impoverished to improved sustainable levels. The model will assist communities to measure levels of environmental degradation and socio-economic status; ranging from those landscapes with levels of degradation, high incidences of poverty, to those which show clear progress in both landscape regeneration and poverty reduction. ROLL will therefore use GM to graduate landscapes and communities from a lower to a higher level once they achieve a set criterion based on biophysical and socio-economic attributes.
76. To further appreciate application of GM, ROLL project and IFAD supported a mission to Ethiopia in June 2023, to learn how one of the IFAD supported project; Participatory Small-scale Irrigation Development Programme (PASIDP) has applied Gender Family Model (GFM) to better transform livelihoods of the project beneficiaries. The essence of the model is to help households to transit from traditional way of conducting house chores. Households that are engaged in GMF, have transformed to making mutual decisions and sharing all house chores, including farming and financial decisions.
77. Following an exchange visit to Ethiopia the ROLL project embarked on a task to customise the model to the Local Context from the one that was initially conceptualized in the project design. To do so the project organised a workshop on the graduation model for the Extension Officers. The main objective of the workshop was to introduce the GM to the implementers and allow for its interrogation considering the prevailing circumstances on the ground. It was agreed that there should be six levels (levels 0 – 5) instead of four graduation levels, where level 0 would be dedicated to planning and mobilisation and levels 1 – 4 should be dedicated to implementation of plans, while level 5 will be maintaining all that would be achieved in the previous levels and preparation for exit.
78. The graduation criteria were maintained at achievement of 70% of the plans and targets. Moreover, the consensus reached was that it was not feasible to produce indicators to track, but rather to suggest information that may need to be collected at baseline phase and along the graduation pathways to assess if graduation is taking place or not. It was agreed that the requisite assessment tools as well as the indicators would be crystallised once the Landscape Coalition Building Service Provider is on board and community mobilisation and engagement has started. This is therefore anticipated to take place in the first quarter of 2024/25 fiscal year.

Review of Project Implementing Manual

79. The objective of the Project Implementation Manual (PIM) is to spell out the procedures and detailed arrangements for the Implementation of the ROLL Project for the achievement of its objectives. The PIM is prepared based on project documents, IFAD guidelines and legal documents relating to the management and implementation of IFAD funded projects. The manual sets forth guidelines and procedures for the implementation of the Project, including: (i) the financial management arrangements; (ii) the terms and conditions of the Financing; (iii) the institutional project management arrangement; (iv) Component Implementation arrangement; (v) procurement arrangement; (vi) disbursement arrangement; (v) the monitoring and evaluation framework for project activities; and (vi) the Project's environmental and social management framework. It also includes Annexes which hold supplementary information.
80. The PIM is a living document and expected to be revised and updated as necessary to incorporate the evolving needs of the Project and any changes in procedures based on the experiences of Project implementation. The key changes in the review of the current version of PIM included staffing of the project Management Unit, institutional project management arrangement (Project Steering Committee, Technical Advisory Committee and District Project Implementing Teams), the project targeting strategy, the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and the Graduation Model. The PIM was reviewed in consultation with key stakeholder, the changes have been effected and the new revised version of PIM is to be shared with IFAD for No-Objection.

3.3.2. Procurement and Contract Management

81. The 18 Month Procurement Plan was approved in December 2022 and the plan had over 20 Procurement activities excluding meals, accommodation, and conference facilities. Around 16 Procurement activities which were initiated had been completed and out of that delivery has been completed on 8 activities. Other 8 activities are under implementation. The procurement plan had included 4 other activities which were single sourced like N4wand others to be done by FAO. The other activity was auditing of financial statements which was removed since auditing will be done the following year and lastly there was consultancy on environmental status which was to be done by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. The main challenge faced by the procurement office is the late submission of requisitions and specifications which were submitted in the last quarter of the financial year. Additionally, the project encountered late approvals from the Ministry tender panel which prolonged the procurement processes.

Capacity Building.

- a. The procurement team attended a workshop in Kenya organised by IFAD in November 2022. The workshop was about general procurement topics and end to end OPEN system.
- b. The procurement team also attended a training on OPEN system in Kenya in April 2023

- c. There was as a training in procurement held in Lesotho facilitated by IFAD Procurement Specialist.
- d. The procurement office also attended a training in TOMPRO which was held at Mauritius in October 2023.
- e. And lastly, the procurement was also represented in contract management training held in South Africa Sandton.

Table 15: Progress Against Procurement Plan

Procurement Unit	
Activity	Progress To date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of Project Vehicles 	Eight Project vehicles were procured and delivered for an amount of M6,376,151.63 from Maseru Toyota. One additional vehicle (7-Seater) has also been procured for an amount of M 905,331.21 from the same company. The purchase order was issued on the 04 March 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicle and Asset Insurance 	Projects assets and vehicles have been insured from July 2023 to July 2024 for an amount of M 185,671.60 by Zenith Horizon Insurance company.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signing Boards and Car Branding 	The procurement activity was completed, and a service provider called Pentagon and Billboards was awarded a contract for an amount of M 130,550.00 to supply and deliver signing boards and car branding. However, car branding was removed from the purchase order after the sample was rejected by the project.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of Promotional Materials 	The procurement activity was completed, and a company called Print Corp was awarded a contract to supply and delivery promotional materials for an amount of M 155,908.09. All items were delivered except the blazers and jackets which the project did not approve their samples.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video Editing Software and Editing Site 	The procurement activity has been completed and a company called Data Tech IT Solutions was awarded a contract to supply and deliver video editing suite and software for an amount of M 75,096.51. The suite has been delivered; the software not yet delivered.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video Cameras 	The procurement activity has just been completed and a company called Quadrant Computers has been awarded a contract to supply and deliver cameras for an amount of M 366,841.95 no delivery has been made yet
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurements of tablets 	The procurement activity has been completed and Atlantic Hi Tech was awarded a contract to supply and deliver tablets for an amount of M 138,048.30 and the delivery has been completed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of MIS 	The procurement activity has been completed and the company called Computer Business Solutions has been awarded a contract to develop the MIS for the project for an amount of M 819,490.00. The work has not been completed. Th

Procurement Unit	
Activity	Progress To date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PMU Annual Retreat 	The procurement activity has been completed and Khaya Ibhubesi was awarded a contract to provide team building activities to the project for an amount of M 227,786.25. This has been completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renovation of the offices 	Part of the renovation was done by the company called Geo Construction for an amount of M 120,000.00. however, due to lack of specifications, big bulk of the work was not done.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultancy to Develop Corporate Identity 	This procurement activity was completed, and a service provider called Brand New Vixion was awarded a contract to develop corporate identity for the project for an amount of M 1,660,000.00 and the work has been completed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultancy for Coalition Building Service Provider 	This procurement activity was completed on the 21 January 2024 when the contract was signed between the project and service provider (Sentebale in Association with Avocado Vision) for an amount of M 6,674,048.16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultancy to Develop Baseline Survey 	The procurement activity was completed in November 2023 when the contract was signed between the project and the service provider (Bigen in Association with Analytica) for an amount of M 2,600,000.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement of Office Furniture 	The procurement process was completed, and service provider (Florida Manufacturing Solutions) was awarded a contract to supply and delivery office furniture for an amount of M 289,515.95. The purchase order was issued on the 08 March 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement of Office Equipment 	The procurement process was completed, and the service provider (BPO TRADING) was issued a purchase order on the 04 March 2024 for an amount of M 242,674.00. The supplier is expected to deliver during the last week of March 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement of ICT equipment 	The procurement process was completed on the 27 February 2024 and the contract was awarded to Maseru Business Machines for an amount of M 485, 507.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate Wear and Car Branding 	The Project has opted to single source the service provider who developed corporate identity for the project. The supplier has already provided quotation which has been evaluated and the evaluation report has been sent for IFAD NO.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultancy to develop ROF 	The single source selection method was used for this activity to select and sign MOU with N4W
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutrition Consultant 	Although this was included in the original procurement plan, it is going to be done by FAO and it is not going to be done through a normal procurement process.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultant to Carry our auditing of the financial statements 	The activity is postponed to next financial year.

Procurement Unit	
Activity	Progress To date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultancy to assess environmental status. 	The activity has been removed from the procurement plan the activities were going to be performed by the Ministry.

3.3.3. Financial Management & Administration

82. As mentioned in the Financial Progress Summary section, the Project was able to access funding from IFAD, GoL counterpart contribution and OPEC Fund. Although counterpart contribution was mobilized, there have been challenges in accessing it from 2024 Q1 to-date. Transfer of funds has been promised to be made to the Project operating account but to no avail to-date.

83. Post findings and recommendation of the last IFAD supervision mission, in January 2024, finance office updated the financial internal controls (SOPs, Advance application and retirement forms) as well as DSA policy aimed at improving and strengthening business processes to PMU which were subsequently updated in the PIM. The in-kind contribution framework was also developed and validated with project stakeholders. The framework is yet to be finalized, with outstanding on indicators data to be obtained from the Ministry's relevant offices.

Access to GEF and ROF Funding

84. Funding from GEF and ROF hasn't been accessed due to absence of the corresponding designated accounts, a prerequisite stipulated in the financing agreement. The GoL through the department of Treasury is responsible for facilitating the opening of the accounts. In the last week of March 2024, the Project received notification from one of the local banks confirming receipt of the request to open both GEF and ROF accounts.

Access to GoL Counterpart Contribution

85. There has been a tremendous delay for counterpart contribution funds to be transferred to the Project. The current procedure is for Projects to provide projected cash plans and procurement plans for coming quarters vis-à-vis the processes in the last FYs where after approval of budgets, funds would be transferred into Projects accounts for the whole FY. The message for change in accessing funds procedures from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning was relayed in June 2023, towards end of the first quarter of the current FY. Following submission of the required documents and approval by the Principal Secretary of MEF, there has been a lot of queries from the Ministry of Finance, consequently leading to delay of access of funds. In January 2024, the Project was informed that the two tranches of counterpart contribution claimed have been approved.

Processes of transferring these funds were underway and expected to be completed within days. However, these counterpart funds have still not been transferred into the project account to-date.

PMU Employment Contracts

86. The MEF is responsible for overall recruitment of the PMU. This extends to their daily management such as updating of leave days as well as keeping of records. However, the ROLL project has resorted to keeping copies of leave days (annual, sick, compassionate etc.) for its own effective management.

3.3.4. Capacity Building/Exchange Visits

Exposure Visit to Matatiele, Eastern Cape

87. The success of ROLL implementation depends on learning and adopting the best lessons from other organisations or projects, which have remarkable experience on regeneration of landscapes and livelihoods through participatory approaches. ROLL PMU and technical departments wanted to explore the opportunities of visiting Conservation International in South Africa to learn about conservation agreements. The objectives of the learning and exchange visit were:

- a) To establish synergies and partnership between the two (ROLL and CSA).
- b) To exchange ideas and approaches on the implementation of sustainable natural resources management and governance.
- c) To exchange knowledge on application of conservation agreements/ Rangeland Stewardship Agreements.
- d) To strengthen project development objective of ensuring that rural communities adopt transformational practices that will regenerate their landscapes and livelihoods.

Lessons learned:

88. GAs and CSA have established relations to enhance livestock production through study exchanges. This involves supporting GAs through provision of drugs and vaccines for improved animal health. The initiatives also include mobilizing purchase of livestock from GA members at 6% commission and at 8% for non-GA members. The 2% difference is given to the grazing association as a reward for compliance at the end of the year. This is a similar context to Payment of Ecosystems Services as it encourages associations to manage rangeland resources and practice rotational grazing.
89. Another reflection was that the Department of Range Resources Management has different associations such as Grazing Associations (GA's), Herders' Associations and Village Grazing Associations (VGA's). The establishment of such associations must be followed in line with district-specific challenges, feasibility, and sustainability. A typical example made was Quthing, Lets'a-la-Letsie sub-catchment; where RMA's and GA's have been explored before but dismally failed due to contextual dynamics. In such scenarios, VGAs stand a better chance of working sustainably. However, in districts like Leribe, Pelaneng-Bokong RMA is still functional although there are challenges. It is envisaged that the upcoming national dialogue on NRM will promote stewardship and facilitate topics like developing local standards to sustain livelihoods, and then international standards will swiftly follow.

Securing women's resource rights through gender transformative approaches workshop, Nairobi, Kenya

90. The Global Gender Transformative Approaches initiative for Women's Land Rights is a global initiative with the overarching goal to promote and strengthen women's land rights through the integration of gender transformative approaches (GTAs) in rural development interventions. The initiative works with selected IFAD projects to enhance the recognition and protection of women's land rights and contribute to the creation of conditions that would enable women's enjoyment of land rights over time.

Specific Workshop objectives were:

- a) Develop a shared understanding of what GTAs are, what is meant by transformation in the context of women's resources and land tenure rights, and why this is important.
- b) Consolidate shared understanding, knowledge, skills, and mindsets for the design and implementation of GTAs to strengthen women's resources and land tenure rights in cross-learning and sharing with other countries, projects, and partners.
- c) Deep dive into some of the GTAs tools to secure women's land tenure and resource rights (what has worked, what has not, what has been achieved and what have we learnt).
- d) Have frank and honest discussions and reflections on the key challenges, complexities, and opportunities in designing and implementing GTAs for women's resources and land tenure rights.

Conclusion and lessons learned.

91. The event was very important for delving deeper into gender transformative approaches, talking to women access, equity and decision making on the use of land resources. Access to land is one of the essential resources to enable women's production in families. It is fundamental for the financial autonomy and empowerment of rural women. However, it is important to be selective in GTAs to avoid a blanket approach but rather contextualize experiences and lessons to country setting. Not all GTAs will address all issues on gender and equality, hence a need to check feasibility of concepts' applicability. Each IFAD project is unique, entailing different phases and timelines of project implementation, approaches to address gender considerations, and issues concerning rights to land and resources. Few focus explicitly on land rights or gender equality, but land and resource tenure rights and gender are underpinning project implementation, offering a variety of entry points for intervention.

Graduation Model Study Tour to Ethiopia

92. Ethiopia is one of the first countries in Africa to successfully test the Model on the Livelihoods graduation and has rolled-out through-out the country. The study tour to Ethiopia was to learn on the developed, tested, and documented successful approaches and models on Sustainable Land Management and financial inclusion following a community-based approach. The ROLL delegation made up of project staff, Government Officials including Extension Staff had the privilege to learn from Participatory Small-scale Irrigation Development Program II (PASIDPII). The overall objective of this project was very much aligned to that of ROLL as it also aspired to regenerate the landscapes/Natural Resources and enhance the livelihoods of communities.

93. *Lessons Learned*

- a) Landscapes and livelihoods graduation: ROLL project should decide on the graduation criteria for both landscapes and livelihoods. The intermediate thresholds should be clearly outlined. The service provider manual should clearly indicate this aspect especially how communities' plans will fit into SP overall manual to talk similar vision.
- b) Community contribution (in-kind & cash): it came clear that people care and take responsibility for things they felt pain of contributing towards their establishment. So, it is extremely important that ROLL set clear threshold contributions for the communities supported under the project.
- c) Graduation Model Pillars: All ROLL Implementors and stakeholders need to be conversant about four graduation Pillars (NRM/SLM; Livelihoods Improvement; Financial Inclusion; and Social Cohesion). Also, a clear linkage between all these pillars should be stipulated in the PIM.
- d) Communities learn and understand the new concepts well from peer-to-peer learning than in the classroom
- e) Engagement of community leaders in all planning stages improves their support to the Project
- f) Mindset change is influenced by a continuous mobilisation, sensitisation and capacity building of the communities at all levels.

Contract Development, Negotiations and Management Masterclass 23 – 26 January 2024

94. The purpose of this training was to capacitate the Project's (PMU management) and Ministry's management team (including Principal Secretary and Human Resources) with Contract Development, Negotiations & Management Masterclass skills that will improve effectiveness and efficiency towards supervising and managing project contracts. The acquired knowledge shall in turn lead to effective achievement of Project's overall development objective

Lessons Learned

- (a) How to handle and manage the contract successfully, and in the case of breach of contract conditions, what are the remedial options before the actual termination of the contract and what could cause (possible reasons) termination of the contract.
- (b) Prudent selection of contract negotiation team must be ensured since that selection serves as a long-term image of the organization or project.
- (c) Active involvement of Procurement committees across all procurement stages is important to strengthen the entire procurement process.
- (d) Categorized vendor database should be developed as this can assist in determining the capacity of different vendors.
- (e) Development and periodic update of risk register/matrix//issue log is crucial to ensure that project risks are given attention and appropriate mitigation strategies are in place.
- (f) Involvement of Legal personnel from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry is key going forward due to legal issues that are incorporated into the project holistically.

4. IMPLEMENTATION CONSTRAINTS

- I. Delayed disbursement of Funds from OPEC, GEF, GOL. The Project has mainly been financing planned FY activities using only IFAD funds although there is cost-sharing among all financiers. This has an adverse effect on utilization of funds from other Project financiers as it appears as if the Project is unable to consume corresponding approved resources.
- II. Delayed approval by the Government supplier of fuel. While awaiting the approval the Project has contracted a service provider who only offers services in the district of Maseru. This then means that, all Project vehicles deployed in the Project areas which are all outside and far from the Maseru district, must be driven to the mentioned district for refueling, compromising time to be supporting implementation in these areas.
- III. Delayed engagement of key SPs and signing of MOUs with key partners
- IV. The absence of Thaba tseka PFO hinders the project performance in that district
- V. There ROLL procurement office had challenge of convening the tender panel to preside over evaluation reports as this was done through the Ministry's procurement office. This resulted in delay within the procurement processes and additionally when the presentations were made, the minutes and decisions of the tender panel could not be accessed on time. However, the situation has improved since the Principal Secretary has instructed the ROLL Procurement Manager be responsible for convening the tender panel meeting and ensuring that decisions made are documented and signed for.
- VI. IFAD financial management support to the Project has been intermittent. Periodic financial management reporting is coherently done through IFAD's Client Portal (ICP). This has posed a lot of challenges in approval of quarterly reports as the Project's financing instruments are not in-tandem with the Financing Agreement (FA). This in most cases leads to delay in approval of reports. In addition, disbursement of financiers' funds has suffered tremendous delay.
- VII. The engagement of the said CBSP took longer than expected and had such a negative impact on the stride that the project was expected to have achieved by this time of reporting.

5. SUCCESSFUL APPROACHES AND LESSON LEARNED

- a) The appointment of the ROLL Procurement Manager to act as a secretary for the Ministry's tender panel while it is presiding over ROLL evaluation reports is considered as a huge success of the project. The Project has access to the decisions of the tender panel and able to move to the next steps of the procurement process on time.
- b) The Project's accounting system is window based hosted under the GoL server. The server is from time-to-time vulnerable to cyber-attack and disconnection of internet connectivity which leads to many financial transactions being posted outside the system, imposing financial controls risk to the Project. On the upside, the accounting system SPs have come up with a solution of migrating the system from windows to web for alleviation of the mentioned risk. The migration is anticipated to be in the first quarter of the coming financial year.
- c) Review and contextualization of Graduation Model to Lesotho
- d) Conservation agreements/ Rangeland Stewardship Agreements implemented by CSA in Matatiele is the best NRM approach that can be adopted for landscapes regenerations.
- e) International exposure visits to Upper Tana and Ethiopia helped PMU and implementing partners to understand how the ROF should function and to customise the graduation model approach.
- f) Exposure visits organised by ROLL for local leaders enhanced peer to peer learning, which resulted into voluntary landscapes regeneration by the communities.
- g) Interest groups that are already engaged voluntarily on landscapes regeneration can be identified as our entry point and hotspot of where we have a potential to expand from, while allowing other communities to embrace the ROLL approach.
- h) Engagement of all key stakeholders at different levels of leadership structures such as Principal Chiefs and Area chiefs enabled the project to secure their support to the project. Also communities sensitised about the project and are highly embracing ROLL as their own rather than imposed project.

- i) Project visibility guided by project Corporate Identity
- j) There is a need to have a web-based cloud that can be accessed from any point.

6. PROJECT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

- a) The project has not yet started to record results on its impact and outcomes as yet. But more importantly to note is the fact that the project has successfully commissioned the baseline survey that will help provide information on some outcome indicators.

7. WAY FORWARD

7.1. Component A: Regeneration Coalition Facility

- a) There is a need for the Project to explore an alternative option for executing activities that were assigned to FAO pending the signing of MoU. One option could be to request a Nutrition and GIS support from IFAD pool of experts.
- b) Incentivisation of the communities engaged on voluntary landscape regeneration should be made a priority to keep their momentum going forward.

7.2. Component B: Regeneration Opportunity Fund

- a) The Fund Design Specialist should monitor and administer the implementation of the roadmap from the Fund design report which will include the Ministry of Environment and Forestry about the Funds that are already established and find synergies with other implementers and how the funding modalities are carried out. Furthermore, from the NbS session, FDS should follow up on the ranking process/ prioritization of the sub-catchments and site visit to the selected sub-catchments by N4W. The site visit is expected to be undertaken tentatively by April 2024

7.3 Component C: Project Coordination

- (a) Development of Operational Plan
- (b) Quarterly PMU progress Review Meeting

APPENDICES

Appendix VI - Action on IFAD Supervision Mission and PSC Recommendations

Overview and Project Progress - Agreed action	Responsibility	Deadline	Progress update (30th November 2023)
Project Management			
1. Process the project restructuring to include the ASAP+ grant	IFAD / PMU	31 June 2023	Awaiting IFAD Lead on this activity
Component A			
2. Develop a) graduation model onboarding material and b) a dedicated on-boarding schedule of the graduation model for the CBSP	CMA/IFAD	a) 15 December 2023 b) 08 January 2024	The onboarding workshop materials were developed through assistance of IFAD and Workshop was held on the 6-7 February 2024
3. Engage Component A Service Provider	PMU	31-May-23	Completed
4. Develop ROLL Implementation Stakeholder Mapping and Engagement plan (at different levels: national, district and community levels) in alignment with developed Stakeholder Engagement Strategy	Knowledge and Learning Management Officer (KLMO), Component A Manager	30-Jun-23	Implementation Stakeholder Mapping and Engagement plan has been drafted and is awaiting validation by stakeholders
5. Organize inhouse training and learning visit to Ethiopia on graduation model	IFAD (TA), PMU	15-May-23	Completed: Learning visit to Ethiopia was done on the 11th - 17th June 2023, while the inhouse training was

Overview and Project Progress - Agreed action	Responsibility	Deadline	Progress update (30th November 2023)
			conducted on the 30th of July- 04th August 2023
6. Develop a Technological and organizational Innovations grants manual	Component A Manager + KM	31 August 2023	Technological and Organizational innovations guideline developed and will later be aligned with ROF investment manual
7. Development of a nutrition strategy and action plan	FAO / CMA	31-Aug-23	This activity is awaiting the signing of MoU with FAO
Component B			
8. Develop a detailed roadmap for the ROF development inclusive of the FDP work packages	Project Coordinator and M&E Manager	21 April 2023	Complete
9. Develop and finalise the MoU with the FDP	Project Coordinator and M&E Manager	22-May-23	Awaiting IFAD approval.
10. PMU and IFAD to develop a dedicated onboarding session for the Fund Design Specialist (FDS)	FDS PC / IFAD	01-Dec-23	Completed
11. Update the MoU with N4W with Compensation workstream, send to IFAD for NO	IFAD/PMU	15-Dec-23	Not done yet. The MoU with N4W will for now remain as it is. The priority for the first year is given to the Fund design and therefore CompensACTION workstream may be considered at the later stage.
Component C			
12. Proceed to the finalisation and signature of the	FAO / PC	31-May-23	The MOU has been Finanlised and has been cleared by

Overview and Project Progress - Agreed action	Responsibility	Deadline	Progress update (30th November 2023)
agreement with FAO, inclusive of result-based budgeting and an AWPB for year one			IFAD but is currently being submitted to FAO headquarters office for review and signing
13. Conduct a targeting workshop, and revise the PIM accordingly (including on implementation arrangement)	IFAD / M&E Manager	31-Aug-23	The targeting workshop was successfully held, and the revision of PIM is still ongoing. The process took longer than expected due to delayed clearance of different project structure.
14. PMU to organise the joint stakeholders on-boarding workshop for the project implementing partners (N4W, CBSP, FAO) on project delivery, coordination and reporting.	PMU/CMA	31-Jan-24	Complete
15. Develop a process map of key components within the ROLL Project and integrate it into the PIM	PC/PMU	01-Mar-24	On going
16. Develop the project's operational procedures and integrate it into the PIM	PC/PMU	01-Mar-24	On going
17. Explore and undertake targeted upskilling courses on project management, leadership, and contract monitoring	PC/PMU	31-May-24	Complete

Overview and Project Progress - Agreed action	Responsibility	Deadline	Progress update (30th November 2023)
18. PMU to participate in dedicated learning exchanges with other IFAD-NRM supported projects	PC/PMU	31-May-24	Complete
19. Implement the project ESMP and GRM mechanism as per the SECAP and ESIA reports, and update PIM accordingly	PMU	31-May-24	On going
20. Identify additional resources to support the PMU on implementing and monitoring social and Environmental safeguards	PMU/PS	31-Jan-24	On going
21. Improve organisation of finance unit, secure an additional accountant to the project	PMU	31-May-24	On going
22. Put in place a mechanism for collecting data from technical PMU staff on beneficiary and Government counterpart in-kind contributions	PC/FM	30-Nov-23	On-going. In-kind Contribution framework has been developed with implementing partners. However, valuation of its indicators is not yet complete and anticipated to be finalized by 30 June 2024.
23. Revise the PSC composition in the next amendment letter and refine the ToRs for both bodies	MDNSE / IFAD	31 June 2023	The exercise has been successfully done.

Overview and Project Progress - Agreed action	Responsibility	Deadline	Progress update (30th November 2023)
<i>Financial Management and Execution</i>			
Title of Agreed action	Responsibility	Deadline	
24. Submit Q2 2023 IFR and related WAS in ICP	FM	15-Nov-23	Complete
25. Update PIM with operational procedures for accounting and asset management, with guidance from IFAD	PMU/FM	31-Dec-23	Complete
26. Opening of GEF bank account	FM	30-Nov-23	Complete
27. Improve controls of completeness of supporting documentation	FM	31-Dec-23	Complete
28. Send first withdrawal application on the second IFAD instrument to finance the activities under component B(ROF), conditional to ROF roadmap development (ref. made to para. #28; 2)	FM	21 April02 May 2023	Outstanding. ROF bank account has just been opened towards end of March 2024. Opening of the DA preceded application and transfer of funds.
29. Develop an In-kind contribution framework	Project Coordinator, Finance Manager,	30-Jun-23	In-Progress. The framework was developed with implementing partners in Nov 2023. However, valuation of indicators is yet to be finalised by 30 Jun 2024.

Overview and Project Progress - Agreed action	Responsibility	Deadline	Progress update (30th November 2023)
30. Currency of IFRs. Ensure the currency for IFRs and withdrawal application matches the currency of financing/ Designated Accounts i.e. EURO for IFAD and USD for OPEC. The upcoming IFR for the quarter ended March 31, 2023, would be prepared accordingly as clarified.	FM	15-May-23	Complete
Procurement			
Title of Agreed action	Responsibility	Deadline	
31. Processes and Procedures from prequalification to Bidding: due to overwhelming request for caterings services, which is bringing pressure to the PU there is need to sign framework contract with at least 3 service providers on a rotational basis for catering services per district	PU	31-Jan-24	The selection process has started, RFQs drafted and shared with possible caters
32. Processes and Procedures from prequalification to Bidding: Establish framework agreement for accommodation, travel, and facilities (would require an SOP in place for proper contract	PU	28-Feb-24	The selection process has started, RFQs drafted and shared with possible accommodation facilities.

Overview and Project Progress - Agreed action	Responsibility	Deadline	Progress update (30th November 2023)
management) Will be done in phases.			
33. Record Keeping: to make sure all old files are in place and well kept, work backwards with the help of ICT to retrieve data and file them accordingly	PU	31-Jan-24	On going
34. Training of OPEN System to the PU, to help eliminate errors that are being incurred during the use of this new system	PU/IFAD	30-Dec-24	Training Done on the 27 November 2023
35. Buy and customize the procurement software, include that item in the AWPB and PP for next financial year	PU	30-Apr-24	Yet to be started
36. Recruitment of an adhoc Procurement Consultant:	PMU	A. 30 April 2023	Canceled
37. A) Senior - to bridge the gap in project procurement and to avoid further delays in the project and provide on job training to the PMU		B. 0 May 2023	The recruitment process was completed, and Procurement Manager started his duties on the 01 June 2023.
B) Intermediate to stand in for the PM position until			Canceled

Overview and Project Progress - Agreed action	Responsibility	Deadline	Progress update (30th November 2023)
recruitment process is concluded			
38. Processes and Procedures from prequalification to Bidding: Establish framework agreement for accommodation, travel, and facilities (would require an SOP in place for proper contract management)	PM/ PO	31-Aug-23	Consultations are ongoing with IFAD procurement specialist on how best to approach it as it has some challenges.
39. Process and Procedures for Evaluation and Contract Award: Use of a single evaluation method (Goods are to be evaluated on and signed for by 3 people)	PM/ PO	Immediate	Evaluation for big procurements are done by three people or above
40. Evaluation reports for goods; need to contain an administrative evaluation and technical evaluation stage, but also reasons justifying the scores for each supplier.	PM/ PO	Immediate	Detailed evaluation reports are produced for every procurement activity
41. Training of new Procurement Officer and PMU staff; A new Procurement Officer is joining the Project on 1st April 2023 and will be trained in the IFAD Project	PM/ PO / IFAD	30-Apr-23	This activity has been successfully completed even though it was delayed

Overview and Project Progress - Agreed action	Responsibility	Deadline	Progress update (30th November 2023)
Procurement Framework and in the use of IFAD systems and templates (procurement plan, NOTUS, CMT). Relevant PMU staff will also be invited to the trainings.			
42. CMT data and contract monitoring; Develop a Contract Monitoring Tool (CMT) and contract register. Ensure that all ongoing contracts or purchase orders or MoUs are registered in the CMT, and contract register immediately.	PM/ PO	Immediate	On going
43. Buy and customize the procurement software, include that item in the AWPB and PP	Procurement Office	31-Jul-23	The supplier of accounting software has been consulted on the possibility of including the procurement module in the already existing accounting system. That will be done with additional charges, and the training will be on the last week of October 2023.
<i>Monitoring and Evaluation</i>			
Title of Agreed action	Responsibility	Deadline	
44. Expediate the process to contract MIS and Baseline contractors	M&E Unit/PU	30-Nov-23	Complete

Overview and Project Progress - Agreed action	Responsibility	Deadline	Progress update (30th November 2023)
45. Finalise the M&E manual by validating with the relevant stakeholders	M&E Unit	20-Apr-23	The M&E Manual was workshopped for stakeholders on April 17-21, 2023. Inputs were put submitted by the stakeholders. It was found from the workshop that some stakeholders were not on board yet; the likes of Coalition Building Service Provider and representative from Department of Cooperatives. It was therefore agreed that the final validation of the M&E manual will be made when the Coalition Building Service Provider is on board.
46. Carry out an M&E workshop with all implementing partners with M&E responsibilities	M&E Unit/PCU	15-May-23	The activity is yet to be undertaken, as the Coalition Building Service Provider is not on board yet.
Knowledge Management			
Title of Agreed action	Responsibility	Deadline	
47. Finalise the stakeholder mapping and engagement plan and send to IFAD for review	KMO/PMU	30-Nov-23	Finilised and submitted to IFAD for Review
48. Develop a project-wide innovation plan to guide operation and	KMO/PMU	30-Mar-24	

Overview and Project Progress - Agreed action	Responsibility	Deadline	Progress update (30th November 2023)
learning – with TA from IFAD			
49. Develop KM/Communication Plans for the quarter	KM Officer	30-Apr-23	The Communication Strategy was workshopped on April 17-21, 2023 with stakeholders. Inputs were submitted by the stakeholders for incorporation. The draft has been improved. It is to be validated by stakeholders in the second quarter of 2023/24 fiscal year. Moreover, KM materials and works; Development of Corporate Identity have been delivered by the service provider.
<i>Project Coordination</i>			
Title of Agreed action	Responsibility	Deadline	
50. Facilitate the National Dialogue on Natural Resources Governance	PC	28-Feb-24	Ongoing. The dates were rescheduled to align with the availability of His Majesty The King and the Cabinet