

Concept Note

Process for the development of Draft Catchment Management Plans 2021-23 for 6 Priority Sub-Catchments

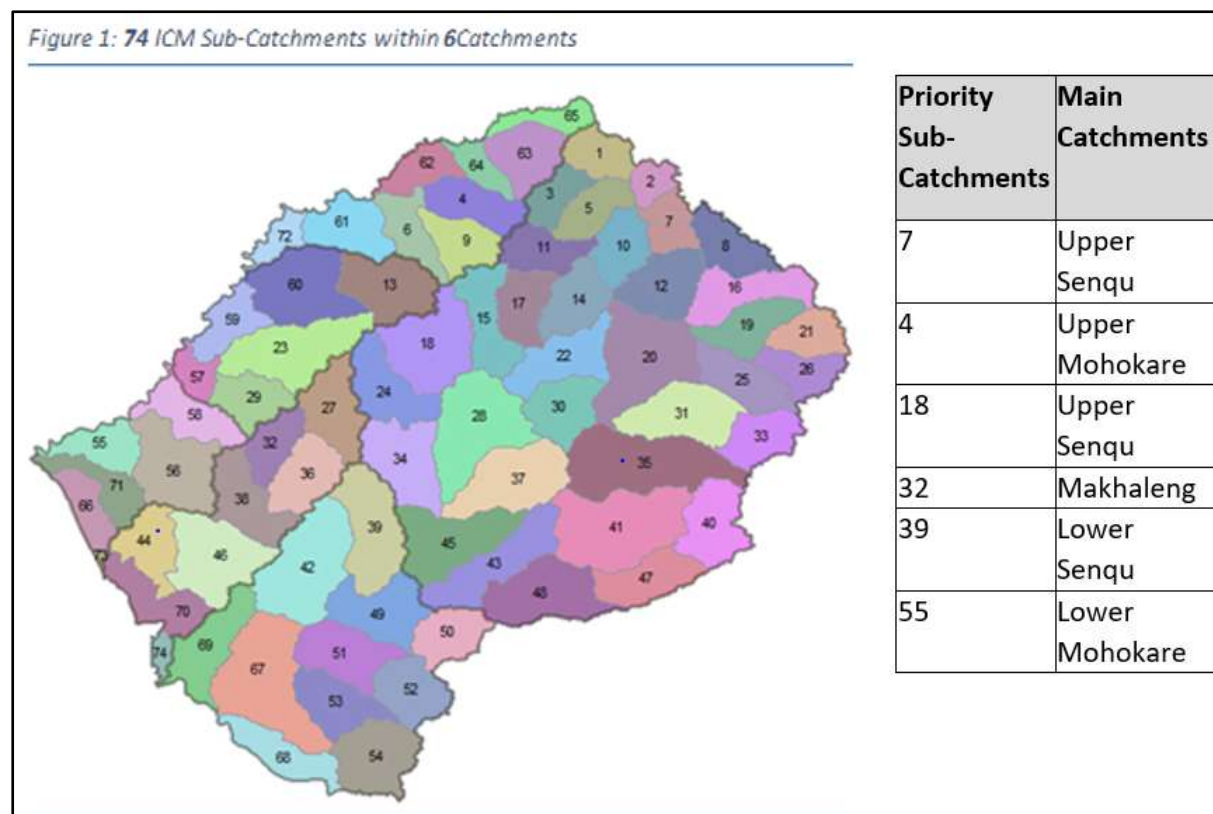
14 September 2020 – 0Draft

3 November 2020 – v1 after ICU meeting of 26 Oct 2020

Latest version – 19 Nov 2020

Background

Activity 3.6.5 of the 2014 Long-term Water and Sanitation Strategy includes the preparation of 'Catchment Management and Development Plans' in consultation with stakeholders. The Government of Lesotho (GoL) has selected six Priority Sub-Catchments in five of the six catchment management areas of the country that will provide the starting point for catchment planning and to test the governance principles and processes of ICM (see figure 1 below)



The Water Act states that the Local Authorities shall function as Managers for catchments and therefore the delineation of administrative and catchment hydrological boundaries is a challenge. Consequently, the planning process needs to combine strategic approaches using the hydrological boundaries of the sub-catchments in order to account for up-, mid- and downstream-effects, while recognizing that action planning, financing, implementation and monitoring are the mandate of community councils under the decentralization policy and local government act couched in administrative boundaries.

Therefore, at the **local level**, for each sub-catchment a three-year Sub-Catchment Management Plan (SCMP) will be derived, which will be specified and operationalised in annual council action plans with the number of action plans that will be aggregated into a

SCMP being determined by the number of councils covered by one sub-catchment. This approach constitutes the first of the three governance pillars mainstreaming ICM into the decentralisation context informed by Local Government Act 1997 as amended and driven by the Planning Department of the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftainship.

At the **national level** there are six Catchment Management Areas, constituted by various sub-catchments as follows: -

- ❖ Upper Mohokare = 9 Sub-Catchments
- ❖ Lower Mohokare = 6 Sub-Catchments
- ❖ Lower Senqu = 11 Sub-Catchments
- ❖ Middle Mohokare = 6 Sub-Catchments
- ❖ Makhalleng = 8 Sub-Catchments
- ❖ Upper Senqu = 34 Sub-Catchments

The second pillar of ICM mainstreaming dovetails the planning with the national strategies. Here the planning within these national level Catchment Management Areas will be aggregated by incremental upscaling from the respective sub-catchment plans, following three principles described below and will be governed by the Catchment Management Joint Committees constituted by the District Councillors after the Local Government Act 1997, as amended model on Joint Committees.

- (a) local catchment planning must align with catchment and national level strategies as guiding documents;
- (b) planning is evidence-informed with problem analyses that include cause-impact chains and cross-cutting issues like gender and climate change. Identification, selection and prioritization of interventions is based on existing data or makes provision for collecting data where needed; planning is community-owned in that stakeholders mandated by citizens are supported to carry out their functions, including overseeing and coordinating intensive participatory processes that promote ownership, inclusivity and accountability.

The process for piloting the development of SCMPs is shown in Figure 2.

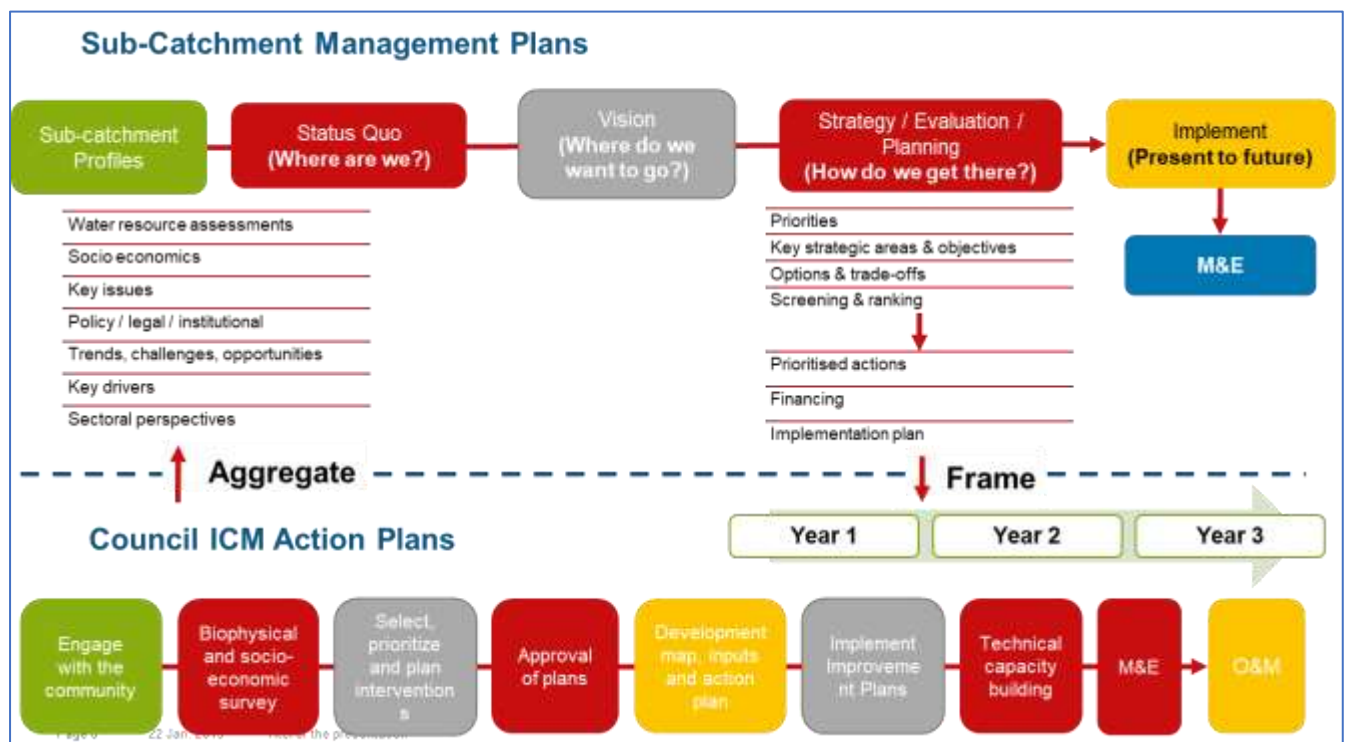


Figure 2: Planning processes at Sub-catchment and Council levels

Stage 1: Draft Three-Year Plans for Sub-Catchments (Nov 2020 to Sept 2021)

The three-year SCMPs are based on a comprehensive profiling of every sub-catchment analyzing hydrological, biophysical, socioeconomic, political-administrative and historical dimensions and future climate scenarios of the respective areas, including evidence from previous interventions. The SCMP shall provide the rationale and address priorities for the optimal allocation, management, protection, conservation and control of the water resources and aquatic ecosystems in the sub-catchments, reinforcing a multi-sectoral involvement in planning and implementation. The profiles are published for public consumption and scrutiny. The data is then used for expert discussions leading to overarching problem statements, definition of water security and resilience targets and proposing short- and mid-term solutions and locations for interventions.

The SCMPs will be structured around a set of Key Strategic Areas, each with a specific objective. A draft list of KSAs is presented in the table below.

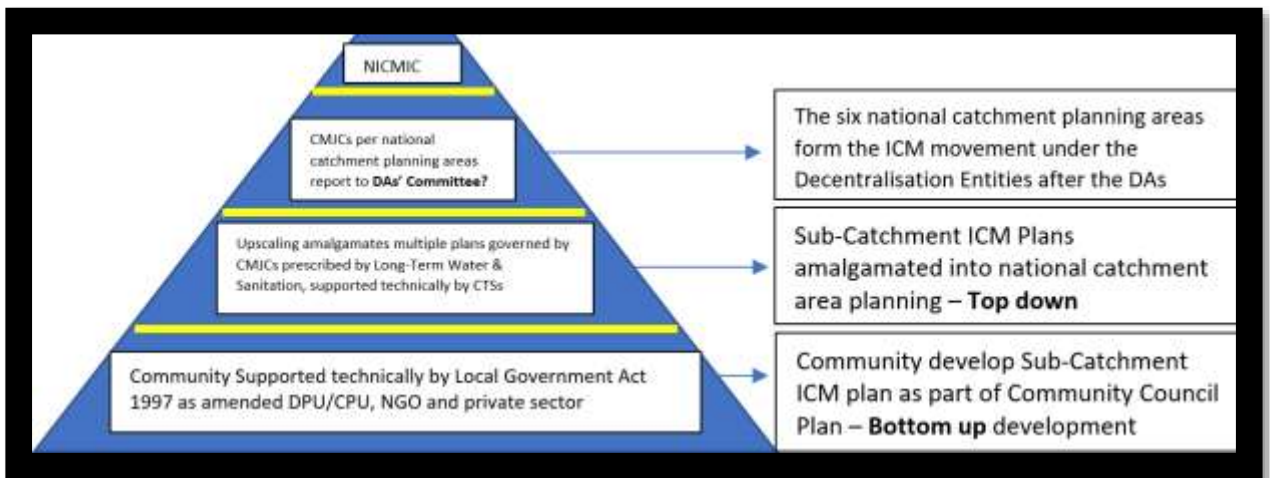
| | Key Strategic Area (KSA) | Objective |
|----------|--|--|
| 1 | Catchment Management | To ensure integrated and sustainable water, land and natural resources management practices |
| 2 | Water Resources Protection | To protect and restore the quality and quantity of water resources of the catchment using structural and non-structural measures |
| 3 | Groundwater Management | To protect and rehabilitate the quality and quantity of groundwater resources for sustainable economic and social development |
| 4 | Water Quality Management | Efficient and effective management of water quality to ensure that water user requirements are protected to promote sustainable socio-economic development in the basin |
| 5 | Climate Change and Ecosystem-based Adaptation | To implement climate change adaptation measures to ensure water resource development and management are adapted and resilient to the effects of climate change. |
| 6 | Flood and Drought Risk Management | To establish and guide a structured programme of actions aimed at ensuring the prevention, mitigation, timeous response, and recovery from the harmful impacts of floods and droughts across the catchment area. |
| 7 | Hydrometric Monitoring | An operational and well-maintained hydrometric network supported by effective and functional data management and information management systems |
| 8 | Water Balances and Water Resources Development | To develop water resources as a key driver for sustainable economic and social development |
| 9 | Strengthened Institutional frameworks | To achieve an appropriate balance between operational functionality and the need for effective oversight and governance. |

| | Key Strategic Area (KSA) | Objective |
|-----------|--|--|
| 10 | Enabling environment to support effective institutions | Improved regulatory responses to strengthen catchment-based water resources management |

The third pillar of aligning ICM to the decentralization processes of local government is the multi-stakeholder approach. This process will be led by expert groups constituting representatives of the ICU for coordination, DPU/CPU from **decentralised** line ministries at district level, CRS & Implementing Partners for Non-Government Organisations, Private Sector and other resource persons from international agencies. The expert groups will produce a Draft SCMP using a standard template derived from the **Participatory Council Planning Approach**, which will make provision to state the contribution of the SCMP to the objectives of national and basin-level strategies.

This process will be governed at the national level by the Catchment Management Joint Committees – CMJC constituted by District Councilors from all Community Councils located within each of the six national level Catchment Management Areas (Figure 3), as prescribed in the Long-Term Water and Sanitation Strategy, 2014 p35, following the Councils’ Joint Committee model prescribed by the Local Government Act 1997 as amended. The CMJCs will be technically supported by the Catchment Technical Secretariat – CTS, which will be initialized by the ICU, while a more suitable CTS structure is being established over time.

Figure 3: Community Council Plans incorporating ICM become Catchment Plans under CMJCs at the national Catchment Planning Areas



The foregoing situation then requires establishment of the district level structures, as the enabling mechanism through resuscitation of the District Planning Units in all districts to facilitate the bottom-up planning approach. In order to focus on the ICM aspect, a working group termed “Sub-Catchment Planning and Support Unit – CPU will be formed out of the DPU focusing on ICM aspects, to support the communities from the Electoral level through to the Council level with the planning process. In exceptional situations where sub-catchments fall within the jurisdiction of more than one district, the respective districts shall have their DPU/CPU establishment activated to support the ICM process(s) at the intersection.

Alongside this process will also be the establishment of the CMJCs who will take the responsibilities of the top-down approach at the national catchment planning areas. The initial focus of these structures at the pilot stage, will be the Priority Sub-Catchments intersecting more than one Community Council and more than one district. The substantive role however lies in the aggregation of the Sub-Catchment Development Plans to the

Catchment level, for which following the Long-Term Water and Sanitation Strategy 2014, will be sources from the District Council level. The governance roles and responsibilities for the CMJCs at this level, will be supported by the Catchment Technical Secretariat – CTS, that will initially be serviced by the CPU, while a dedicated CTS will be established later in the course of upscaling process to the catchment level. The CMJCs will equally develop initially from the priority sub-catchment level and increase in number as the upscaling takes place. Again, in exceptional situations where the hydrological boundaries of the national catchment planning area transcend the political boundaries, the best interest political boundary-based decision will be invoked.

The process that is foreseen to draft the SCMPs is as follows:

1. (Previously completed.) Catchment managers in consultation with stakeholders prepare sub-catchment profiles that describe socio-economic activities, biophysical characteristics, political and administrative arrangements, land and water use practices, catchment interventions in the sub-catchment (previously completed).
2. Catchment managers and GIZ Regional Technical Advisors conduct workshops with expert groups to harness existing information and the sub-catchment profiles to:
 - a. Screen and rank key water and land management issues
 - b. Formulate a vision for the sub-catchment
 - c. Develop a strategic framework that responds to key issues in the sub-catchment and provides a structure for the SCMP. The framework defines Key Strategic Areas (KSAs), KSA objectives and KSA themes within which strategies and implementation activities will be formulated.
3. GIZ engages a specialist service provider to:
 - a. Utilise existing information and rapid approaches to conduct:
 - i. Baseline assessments of surface and groundwater potential, use and balances
 - ii. Climate Resilience and Vulnerability Assessments (CRVA)
 - iii. Environmental flow (Eflow) and basic human needs assessments (“The Reserve”)
 - iv. Flood and drought risk and vulnerability assessments
 - v. Flood peaks associated with low recurrence intervals for use in erosion control design in tributary catchments
 - vi. Identify and map potential water resource protection areas, including conservation worthy wetland systems, groundwater recharge zones and high yield headwater areas
 - b. Assemble available downscaled climate change projections and projections of future water demands and assess medium and long-term impacts on water resource availability
 - c. Support development of strategies and implementation plans and compile draft SCMPs

Stage 2: Validation and adoption of SCMPs

The Draft SCMPs will be validated by elected and traditional representatives from councils and members of local civil society; where possible, this will happen through physical meetings or other means (e.g. written comments, telephonic interviews).

The SCMP will be adopted by a council meeting (where the sub-catchment only covers one council) or a meeting of the Catchment Management Joint Committee (CMJC) (where a Sub-Catchment cuts more than one district).

Stage 3 (In parallel with Stages 1 and 2): Annual Council ICM Action Plans

The councils that are part of a given sub-catchment will jointly, ie., through the Joint Committee, produce annual action plans for the financing, implementation and monitoring of ICM measures in their areas of jurisdiction. In the long term, the action plans will be framed by, and operationalize the SCMPs by identifying concrete activity and measures in Council Areas within a sub-catchment. They will demonstrate how measures contribute to the objectives of the SCMP and how they are linked to action plans of other Sub-Catchments in the main Catchment.

The annual action planning will be a collaborative effort overseen by the community councils and coordinated by selected local Implementing Partner NGOs under the lead of Catholic Relief Services (CRS). The intensive community participation process will draw in traditional authorities, community formations (e.g. grazing associations) and local businesses. The councils and NGOs are supported in the action planning by decentralised technical experts of line ministries at district level (e.g. the members of the District Planning Units, DPU) and, where needed, the resource persons at the ICM regional hubs from the ICU, GIZ and CRS.

The solutions are a tailor-made mix of local level remediation measures, including physical and planning/ regulatory measures such as reduction of grazing intensity, strip cropping, gully control measures, selective and improved road construction, hill slope forest planting, runoff harvesting, payment for environmental services, enforced coordination on land allocation system and/or awareness raising on environmental and ecosystem conservation, wetland and range management, amongst others. Small-scale infrastructure measures may be implemented by means of construction firms or paid community labour (cash-for-work).

GIZ ICM team, 14.09.2020

Update , 17.10.2020

Update 08.11.2020

Update April 2020