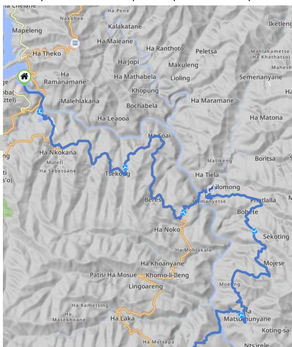
The Lesotho Integrated Transport, Trade and Logistics Project (LITTL - P502125)

The LITTL Project is aimed at improving climate resilient regional connectivity on the Katse to Thaba-Tseka Road corridor, increasing logistics efficiency and improving border processes in Maseru, Ficksburg and Qacha's Nek. It is also aimed at enhancing Moshoeshoe I International Airport functionality, safety and security as well strengthening the aviation sector's capacity to meet international standards.

The project is aimed at advancing Lesotho's poverty alleviation strategy and promote economic growth in mining, agriculture, tourism, and commerce.
The project is financed by The World Bank (International Development Association) in partnership with OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries)



Project Goals

The primary goals of the project are: -

- To connect communities by improving climate-resilient roads between Katse and Thaba-Tseka.
- To enhance trade by increasing logistics efficiency and modernizing border processes.
- To modernize borders through transforming the Maseru, Ficksburg, and Qacha's Nek border posts into seamless gateways.

The project is implemented by the Ministry of Public Works and Transport through the Roads Directorate, with key involvement from the following ministries:

- **Ministry of Finance and Development Planning**
- **Ministry of Trade and Industry and**
- **Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL)**

The project has the following components:

Component 1 :This component focuses on improving road infrastructure.

This entails upgrading of the existing 55 km gravel road from Katse to Thaba-Tseka Upgrade to bitumen. This is a key link in the Maloti Drakensberg Trans-frontier Corridor.

The completed road will bring the following benefits:

- Reduced travel time
- Reduced vehicle operating costs
- Lower accident rate
- Boost to tourism, agriculture and mining

Spot improvements of the A1 Road between Maseru and Botha-Bothe to protect commercial farming goods during transport and reduce crop losses. This also includes improvement of Seretse Khama and A1 intersection and the A1 and A8 intersection at Hlotse.

Component 2 :The component focuses on regional trade and logistics enabling access to international markets.

The following initiatives will be undertaken under this component: -

Smart One-Stop Border Posts (OSBP) at Maseru Bridge as well as Maputsoe-Ficksburg bridge,

Construction of a new central facility that will allow for physical examination of goods away from the border, making the process faster and reducing congestion at the border gates.

Construction of Climate-Controlled Packing Houses located in Leribe, Maseru, and Quthing. These modern facilities will handle 50,000kg of produce per day.
The facility will assist farmers in sorting, grading, and packing to international standards (HACCP), while wastewater and biomass waste will be converted to compost for neighboring farms.

Component 3: Technical assistance and capacity building

This will support implementation of Bi-National Commission Agreement between South Africa and Lesotho. It will consist of technical assistance and capacity building for the implementing agencies, along with facilitating a stronger regional dialogue on trade facilitation.

Component 4: Enhance airport functionality, safety, and security, and strengthen the aviation sector's capacity to meet international standards.

Sub-Component 4.1: Moshoeshoe I International Airport equipment and facilities for operational functionality, safety, and security (US$25 million)

Sub-Component 4.2: Civil works for runway rehabilitation to ensure safety operations (US$10 million)

Sub-Component 4.3: Capacity building, institutional reforms, and technical assistance, including training and studies (US$5 million). This includes " amongst others" recruitment of Aviation Specialist and project support staff (Contracts Engineer, Procurement Officer & Environmental Officer).