



LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

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Agro-Met Monthly Update:

May 2008

Date of issue: June 2008

Highlights

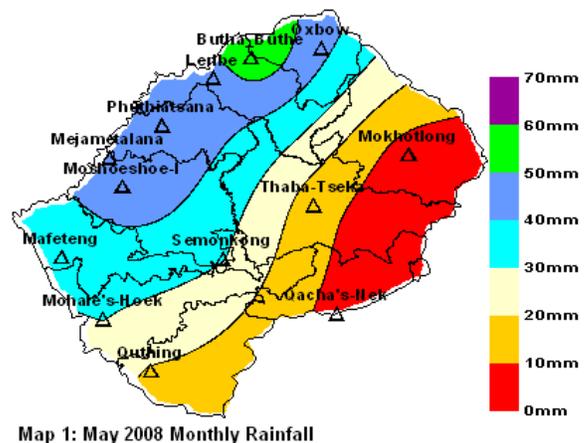
1. Good rainfall experienced at most places
2. Above normal mean monthly temperatures experienced
3. harvesting in progress

Rainfall

Monthly Actual Rainfall

Most parts of the country recorded good monthly rainfall in May 2008. In most areas monthly rainfall ranges from Normal to above normal and it is only in the eastern and southern regions of the country where monthly rainfall was poor. The highest and lowest monthly rainfall is 60.2mm (Butha-Buthe) and 4.8mm (Mokhotlong) respectively (see Map 1).

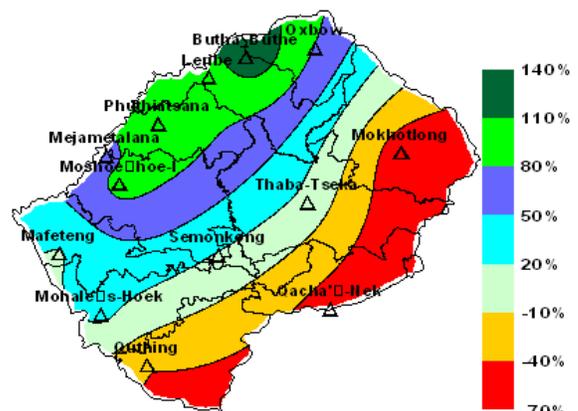
Temporal distribution of rain varies from place to place. Monthly rain days range from two days to seven days (see Table 1).



Map 1: May 2008 Monthly Rainfall

Cumulative Rainfall since May 2008

Cumulative rainfall in May 2008 was normal at most places but above normal at Butha-Buthe and below normal in the region extending from southern tip to eastern parts of the country (see Map 2).



Map 2: Rainfall % Departure from Normal, May 2008

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Temperatures

Month of May 2008 recorded above normal mean monthly temperatures countrywide (see Table 1). The highest and lowest mean monthly temperature deviation from normal was 1.9°C at

Qacha's Nek and 0.8°C at Phuthiatsana respectively.

Crop Stage and Conditions

Harvesting of main cereal crops (maize and sorghum) has started countrywide. Some crops had matured when frost came while other crops did not mature in time and were therefore destroyed by frost.

Recent precipitation has provided good soil moisture that can facilitate winter cropping, and some farmers are currently preparing land for this activity.

Weather Outlook (April – June 2008)

Most parts of Lesotho will have an increased chance of receiving normal to above-normal precipitation for the period April to June 2008 season. Most parts of the highlands and the north-western parts of the country will have a greater likelihood of above-normal to normal

precipitation during the forecast period. Temperatures are expected to remain normal sliding towards the below-normal category.

REFER TO THE TABLE BELOW FOR A SUMMARY TABLE

Table 1

			Monthly Rainfall (mm)			Cumulative R/Fall since May 2008			Temperatures		
Station Name	ALT. (M)	Monthly R/Days	Monthly R/Fall	Normal R/Fall	Actual R/Fall	Normal R/Fall	%Dep. from Normal	Monthly Mean			
								Actual	Normal	Deviation	
Butha-Buthe	1770	5	60.2	25.2	60.2	25.2	139	12	11	1.2	
Leribe	1740	6	43	23.6	43	23.6	82	12	11	1.5	
Mafeteng	1610	3	31.7	26.9	31.7	26.9	18	12	11	1.0	
Mejametalana	1530	7	42.7	25.7	42.7	25.7	66	13	11	1.4	
Mohale's Hoek	1600	3	30.2	23.7	30.2	23.7	27	13	12	1.2	
Mokhotlong	2200	2	4.8	12.4	4.8	12.4	-61	9.6	8.5	1.1	
Moshoeshoe 1	1628	7	46.8	24.4	46.8	24.4	92	13	12	1.4	
OxBow	2660	0		45		45			4		
Phuthiatsana	1750	4	49.5	24	49.5	24	106	13	12	0.8	
Qacha's Nek	1970	3	6.7	15	6.7	15	-55	13	11	1.9	
Quthing	1740	4	19.3	31	19.3	31	-38	13	12	1.8	
Semonkong	2458	7	30.6	26	30.6	26	18	7.8	6.5	1.3	
Thaba-Tseka	2160	7	14.4	13	14.4	13	11	9.8	8.6	1.2	