



# LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

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**Agro-Met Monthly Update:**

**November 2013**

**Date of issue: December 2013**

## Highlights

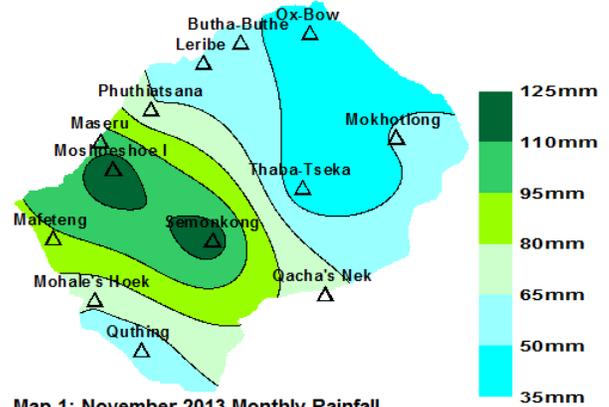
- |                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Below normal rainfall recorded in many places</b></li> <li><b>2. Mean temperatures remain normal in many places</b></li> </ol> |
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## Rainfall

### *Monthly Actual Rainfall*

Rainfall performance improved during the month of November. This improvement brought relief from water stress experienced during past months across various sectors such as water resources and agriculture. In spite the improvement, many places still registered below normal monthly rainfall, only a few places recorded normal rainfall and only one place recorded above normal rainfall (Semonkong).

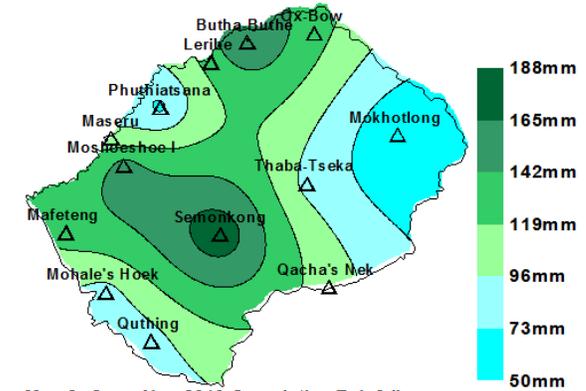
Much of the rains were received during the second dekad of November. The highest recorded monthly amount is Semonkong with 120.1mm, while the lowest is Thaba-Tseka with 37.4mm. (see Map 1).



Map 1: November 2013 Monthly Rainfall

### *Cumulative Rainfall since September 2013*

Cumulative rainfall remains below normal almost countrywide except in Semonkong and Moshoeshoe I. This is due to drought experienced since winter season. The central parts recorded the highest amount, while the lowest records are in the eastern parts of the country. The highest recorded cumulative rainfall is in Semonkong with 183.7mm while the lowest is Mokhotlong with 5.1mm of rainfall (see Map 2).



Map 2: Sep - Nov 2013 Cumulative Rainfall

### Temperatures

Temperatures remained mostly normal during the month of November 2013, with only a few places experiencing slight above normal temperatures. The highest mean temperature deviation from

normal was 1.4°C at Phuthiatsana while the lowest was -0.1°C at Mafeteng.

### Crop Stage and Conditions

Cultivation continued into this month after the first rains were received in October, whereas some crops have started germinating for those who planted in the previous month – October 2013.

### SEASONAL OUTLOOK FOR OCTOBER 2013 TO MARCH 2014

This outlook covers the major rainfall season from October 2013 to March 2014. The outlook is presented in overlapping three-monthly periods as follows: October-November-December (OND); November-December-January (NDJ); December-January-February (DJF); and January-February-March (JFM).

The period October to March is the main rainfall season over Lesotho. It is responsible for future or success of the agricultural production.

The overall rainfall in October 2013-March 2014 is expected to be better to the one of the same period last year (October 2012- March 2013). It is expected that good rains will continue from end of October to the end of the agricultural year.

#### **OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2013**

Leribe, Butha-Buthe, Oxbow, Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka and Semonkong - *Increased chances of average to above-average rainfall*

Qacha's Nek, Quthing, Mofale's hoek, Mafeteng, Maseru and Phuthiatsana - *Increased chances of average to below-average rainfall*

#### **NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2013-JANUARY 2014**

Leribe, Butha-Buthe, Oxbow, Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka and Semonkong - *Increased chances of average to above-average rainfall*  
Qacha's Nek, Quthing, Mofale's hoek, Mafeteng, Maseru and Phuthiatsana - *Increased chances of average to above-average rainfall*

#### **DECEMBER 2013-JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2014**

Leribe, Butha-Buthe, Oxbow, Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka and Semonkong - *Increased chances of average to above-average rainfall*  
Qacha's Nek, Quthing, Mofale's hoek, Mafeteng, Maseru and Phuthiatsana - *Increased chances of average to above-average rainfall*

#### **JANUARY-FEBRUARY-MARCH 2014**

Leribe, Butha-Buthe, Oxbow, Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka and Semonkong - *Increased chances of average to above-average rainfall*  
Qacha's Nek, Quthing, Mofale's hoek, Mafeteng, Maseru and Phuthiatsana - *Increased chances of average to above-average rainfall*