

Lesotho



The collaboration between the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security and Lesotho began in 2016 in New York, with the signing of a first **Memorandum of Understanding** that led to the development of **two projects** on alternative energy.

Lesotho is a landlocked enclave of South Africa. Its territory is predominantly mountainous, with peaks exceeding 3000 meters in height, while in the eastern region there are plateaus with altitudes between 1500 and 1800 metres. The vegetation is poor and only 10% of its land is arable.

The country's economy—rather underdeveloped—relies mainly on the primary sector, particularly sheep farming, and 40% of the approximately 2 million inhabitants live on less than \$1.25 a day.

MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING
NEW YORK 2016 - 2021



SDG: 7;13



1.935.000



2 projects

(1 has been concluded)

The territory of Lesotho is particularly prone to drought and extreme weather events, exacerbated by climate change and the precarious economic and social conditions of a very poor country that heavily relies on the economy of its larger neighbour, South Africa.

THE CONTEXT OF COOPERATION

The cooperation between the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security and Lesotho has focused on promoting and developing renewable energy, establishing a national system for measuring, reporting, and verifying greenhouse gases, increasing energy efficiency, and taking actions to combat deforestation and forest degradation, in synergy with the UN REDD+ Program.

OUTCOMES

The agreement has given rise to two projects. The first, **Support Renewable Energy Potential Maps for Lesotho**, funded by the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security with a contribution of €1,205,000, studied and mapped the wind, solar, and hydro potential of Lesotho, contributing to the overall development of renewable energy and the achievement of the country's sustainable development goals. The second project, ready to be initiated, is **Energy Refurbishment of Four Health Centers in Lesotho**. Funded with €730,000, the project aims to enhance energy efficiency in four clinics in the rural district of Leribe (shown in red on the map).

