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## Background information

LEINET is the Lesotho Environmental Information Network formed in 1995 under the auspices of the International Environmental Information Exchange Network (INFOTERRA). The Information and Documentation Centre of the Institute of Education at the National University of Lesotho was designated as the INFOTERRA National Focal Point (NFP) for Lesotho.

INFOTERRA has established regional information networks that help provide solutions to common environmental problems facing a group of nations. Thus the Southern African Sub-regional INFOTERRA Network (SASIN) was established as a model for future unity programs. SASIN comprises 11 Southern African countries (Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) and is linked closely with the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

SASIN too recommended the establishment of National Environmental Information Networks (EINETS) to serve as fora for promotion and exchange of environmental information at national levels. Consequentially, the Lesotho

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Since its inception LEINET's chairmanship and administration has been the responsibility of the Institute of Education Information and Documentation Centre at the National University of Lesotho.

## OBJECTIVES

- \* To exchange environmental information nationally
- \* To facilitate maximum communication and co-operation among members
- \* To promote environmental awareness through seminars/workshops, publications and other appropriate activities.
- \* To encourage environmental education in activities that promote environmental awareness
- \* To liaise with other regional and international environmental information networks
- \* To work closely with the National Environment Secretariat (NES) in activities that promote environmental awareness and protection.

## Purpose

- \* To improve and control the flow of environmental information in the country
- \* To build a national environmental information database
- \* To improve contact among individuals,

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- \* To identify gaps on environmental research and development activities
  - \* To reduce duplication on research and development activities
  - \* To enhance capacity building of environmental information personnel in Lesotho
  - \* Facilitate the planning and implementation of relevant policies and activities by the National Environment Secretariat (NES).

## LESOTHO NATIONAL DATABASE (LND)

The Irish INFOTERRA National Focal Point provides free database software known as 'Q&A' for distribution by the Lesotho INFOTERRA NFP to all members of the Network who collect, organize and disseminate environmental information. Training is also provided for the operation of the software. The database has about 45 members, which include among others, the Institute of Education at NUL, Lesotho Highlands Development Authority, Lesotho Highlands Water Commission, Department of Energy, National Environment Secretariat, Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs, Southern African Development Community (SADC), Environment and Land Management Sector (Maseru), Masianokeng Environmental Centre, Lesotho Council of NGOs, Lesotho National Library Service,

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## LEINET ACTIVITIES

### Seminars

LEINET holds seminars in Maseru or at N.U.L. Roma to raise environmental public awareness.

At these seminars, different presenters are requested to come and share information on environmental matters, and anybody is free to present any environmental information they have. During the seminars, announcements are made on on-going and up-coming activities. Thus, members are kept abreast of what is going on in the country within the field of the environment. Queries from abroad and within the country are addressed and channeled to people who can provide answers.

### Training

LEINET offers one to two weeks training in the form of courses and workshops on Environmental Education, Information Management, Library Skills, Information Sources and Services, Public Relations, Production of Publication, Introduction to Information Science, Research Methodology in Library and Information Science, Information User Studies and

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## Other Activities

LEINET produces publications and takes part in other awareness activities such as cleaning campaigns, land reclamation, environmental education in schools and non-formal programmes, educational excursions, etc.

### membership

LEINET membership is free. Since it is a non-profit making organization, anybody working in the field of environment, education, information and interested in the Network is free to join either as an individual or an institution.

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# Lesotho environmental information network



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