



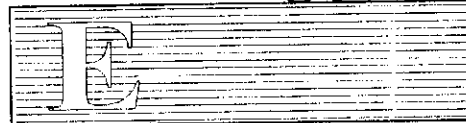
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COUNTRY REPORT

COUNTRY REPORT - KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

Presented at: The Committee on Development Information meeting in Addis Ababa,
June 1999

The report highlights activities of the Survey Division in the Directorate of Lands, Housing and Urban Development within the Ministry of Local Government. This division is the National Mapping Agency, also responsible for upkeep, integrity and maintenance of Cadastral information, as a result the activities are broadly divided into Topographic/Mapping activities and Cadastral Activities.

TOPOGRAPHIC / MAPPING ACTIVITIES

The Country's mapping coverage consists of the 1 : 250,000 topographic map of Lesotho, sixty sheets of the 1 : 50,000 topographic series covering the whole country, 1 : 20,000 agricultural series covering the third of the country in the lowlands, the 1 : 2,500 orthophoto and topographic series covering the urban centres and finally other scales for special project related activities. The 1 : 250,000 Lesotho map is available in digital format, achieved through assistance of the Director of Surveys RSA, and the urban mapping at 1:2,500 also have digital formats. A Lesotho tourist map at the scale of 1 : 400,000 has been derived from the Lesotho map and it is at its final stages of production.

Mapping activities have centred around the revision of the 1:50,000 series, which involves capturing details within the Photogrammetry section and final edit by the Cartographers. A decision to change contour intervals from 25m to 20 in the revised edition was made and in searches for methods of scanning and vectoring these maps are under way and few quotations have been received.

Production of the 1:2500 line maps of Maseru, within the Photogrammetry section has also progressed well, however, the cartography sections has not acquired the necessary skills to produce the final edits of these maps. Mapping at this scale for all urban areas except Maseru has been subcontracted out, with the view of using the product as the Land Information System base map. These products are also used for training and in the production of town maps for urban centres.

The Chief Surveyor General's Office in RSA has offered to assist with on-the-job training for our Cartographers and other relevant disciplines in the area of digital mapping. This is highly appreciated in consideration that the formal training institutes do not precisely address our needs.

Geodesy

The Department acquired Trimble 4000 GPS receivers in 1995 for network densification, and cadastral activities when so required. This equipment has not been extensively utilised due to lack of training. The training courses by the vendors does not cover the underlying principles, therefore minor problems are always referred, which is discouraging. The system has recently been upgraded to Trimble 4700 which promises to have improved operational procedures, internal RTK (Real-Time-Kinematic) radios, a better controller and refined applications software.

CADASTRE

The Cadastral section is continuing to operate a Land Information System that will be enhanced by the 1:2,500 digital mapping. MS Access has been introduced for attribute data and Autodesk World is replacing ReGIS for graphic information. Current trials show that the mapping capabilities of this Software do not compare with those of ReMAP (ReGIS CAD component), therefore there is requirement for AutoCAD Mapping (AutoCad Map) software, which has also been acquired. The Department is in the process of acquiring an A0 design-jet plotter to replace existing pen plotters for the production of hard copies of the digital maps.

The Department is considering reducing its input in cadastral work to examination, control and data maintenance, while the bulk of fieldwork and computations is subcontracted to the private surveyors.

Survey Equipment

The Department had five of its total stations, mostly Topcon GTS-2, stolen in April 1997, and has not had any results from police investigations until now. One Nikon Total stations was stolen this year in October, after the political turmoil, fortunately this was traced through the help of a dealer who was being sold the equipment. Our latest acquisition is a Sokkia Set 3100, which was bought in September 1998.

The photogrammetric plotters, namely converted BC-2 and PG-2, require servicing, and the BC-2 PC has recently broken down and has been out for service for over a month. Options of introducing digital photogrammetry are currently under investigations, and if found appropriate this will be implemented.