

# Framework for Maphutseng Development

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## Maphutseng Property Development

Buildings and infrastructure are to be developed for the Centre according to its needs as and when they arise. Critical outcomes of this development project are as follows:

- The restoration and subsequent use of the historical buildings on site is a priority. These buildings and their restoration will be the responsibility of the project. Close co-operation with Stephen Gill, the curator of the LEC museum at Morija, is advised and he should be consulted in this regard. His passion for sustainability of museums by facilitating the local community's accountability for the preservation task requires more investigation and thought. The lessons learnt from the evolving model of the Quthing cave house can assist with this.
- (Think about new pastor and his needs)
- Any new buildings will match, as closely as practicable, the general architecture and features of the local area. The local community is required to be comfortable with the aesthetics of the development, and the project will take care not to create a worthless western monument where perspective students of conservation agriculture will feel uncomfortable. Keep it authentic, and stay away from too many buildings.
- The development will facilitate community involvement in a culturally sensitive manner to the maximum extent possible.

Specific buildings / facilities currently envisaged (to start) are listed below.

### Lecture Rooms / Training Facilities

Classroom suitable to seat 30 people

### Offices for Operational requirements

± 6 - 8 offices

Meeting / operations room

Archive / filing room

### Student Accommodation

Bedrooms with 4 to 5 beds each for about 25 students

Central ablution facility

Central kitchen / dining area.

### Facilities for local church

House for pastor

Meeting area for the church council (*Lekhotlana*) – possibly the existing “red original church building”

### Guest Accommodation

Guest rooms with bathrooms for 10 guests

Central kitchen / dining area, integrated with student facilities.

Campsite development – Ablution facilities

### Staff Accommodation

Houses for 3 mission families

Housing for staff relocating from Tebellong. (Possibly within neighbouring villages)

### Community project

Equip members of the community with skill and financial assistance to build and operate small guest facilities to accommodate volunteers and short to medium term staff / teachers

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and visitors to the centre. It is envisaged that volunteers will be in the area for various periods ranging from a few weeks to several months and they can (and generally prefer to) utilize these community based accommodation units.

### Infrastructure

Development of infrastructure is required to enhance the sustainability of the development.

Aspects requiring consideration are:

- Roads – Access to and within the property,
- Water supply and storage,
- Sewage and sanitation,
- Electricity. A supply line needs to be constructed by the Lesotho Electrical Corporation.

The Agriculture department indicated availability of a large shed adjacent to the property, which may be made available to the project.

### **Training**

Training and skills development is the prime reason for the facility, and requires careful planning and implementation. Some very basic pointers, subject to considerable further enhancement, are listed:

In order to enable “Discipleship through Agriculture” and ultimately “Feeding a Spiritually Healthy Nation”, a training program will be rolled out, starting with the local Presbyteries in the area from Quthing to Mafeteng.

#### Program 1: Pastors:

Target: The Pastors and Spiritual leaders of the LEC.

Theme: “Care of Creation”

Requirements: At least two years post graduate experience in a community church.  
Interest in Agriculture

Course period: One week initial, then one week per month for a year. Week starting Monday PM, ending Friday AM. Visits to the students at their local congregations will be conducted in between training periods to facilitate implementation of principles.

Outcomes: Spiritual focus towards understanding the concept of shifting people’s minds to realise that their destiny can be changed by identifying and applying the resources at their disposal. Basic understanding of conservation agriculture and the footing it can provide for the Gospel to become a priority in people’s lives. Become excited about our ministry.

Size of Group: 5 to 10

This program should be aware of the fact that many pastors have “other” jobs in addition to their work at the church, in order to generate additional income where the church cannot raise enough cash to support them.

#### Program 2: Farmers

Target: Farmers recruited by students of Program 1.

Theme: Technical aspects of conservation farming.

Requirements: Access to land for own cultivation for subsistence and/or commercial farming.

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Course period:	Two one month sessions and a number of one week training periods spaced to suit farming schedules, for a complete one year crop cycle. Week starting Monday PM, ending Friday AM. Visits to the students at their own fields will be conducted in between training periods to assist them with their own farming operations.
Outcomes:	Technical focus, to teach the concepts of conservation farming and related activities to the extent applicable to Lesotho's unique local conditions. The local visiting teacher or staff member / volunteer will also collect data and research information for input towards continuous improvement of training. Discipleship related training and fellowship amongst students will form an integral part of this training.
Size of Group:	10 to 20

### Program 3: Train the Trainer

Target:	People with a passion for our ministry, disciples who have the gift to teaching.
Theme:	Training skills towards acting as lecturers and field trainers
Requirements:	Maturity, responsibility and leadership skills related to teaching.
Course period:	Three months training at Maphutseng, followed by three months outreach program.
Outcomes:	Focus on Christian fellowship, business skills, and advanced conservation agriculture techniques including seed / soil speciality.
Size of Group:	± 5

### Program 4: Day Visitors

Target:	People just coming to see what we do or have a vested interest.
Theme:	How we are changing the destiny of Lesotho
Requirements:	Take the trouble to come and have a look.
Course period:	1 Day
Outcomes:	Understanding of our vision and what we stand for by showing what we do and how we operate. Go away with a shared passion.
Size of Group:	Any

### Curriculum development and additional outcomes

Courseware will be developed in co-operation with the team, utilizing the material developed at Tebellong and elsewhere. Assistance will be sought from similar facilities operated by Neels de Jager and Brian in Zambia / Zimbabwe. Alignment with the Lesotho department of Education's systems will be sought, in order to give the training local credibility through certification by the Education department.

Possibility of accreditation of the material and training by the local Agricultural college or university, or possibly the University of Tennessee has been postulated, and may cause graduates to become employable by Government or NGO's operating in the region. The training however specifically aims at people who are physically cultivating the fields. Few students qualifying from the local agricultural education institutions actually end up farming. Most are employed by the formal sector, and the Maphutseng facility aims at "filling this gap".

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## Maphutseng Farming Operation

The fields of Maphutseng will be a showcase of what conservation agriculture in Lesotho should look like. The fields will be used for practical teaching, experimenting, development of new techniques, research and development in co-operation with students from universities and colleges locally and abroad and demonstration and testing of suitable mechanisation equipment. Agriculture at Maphutseng will include production of maize, beans, wheat, cabbages, peas and other crops, as well as vegetables and fruit. Irrigation will be utilized where sustainable and viable.

Research and Development will receive priority, as very little data has been recorded and analysed in the past. Students will be encouraged to become part of research and other programs to collect statistics at Maphutseng and in the community farming areas. The presenting, analysing and storage of vital statistics from the entire area covered by the Maphutseng training will be kept and aggregated by the centre.

Crops yielded from the fields will be sold on the market, and to this end the World Food Program undertook to purchase all the excess food that can be produced at Maphutseng.

## Community Involvement

In order to ensure future sustainability of the Maphutseng facility, it is critical to operate in harmony with the local church and surrounding communities. The centre aims to cause no disruption to existing community structures and the environmental footprint needs to be kept as small as possible. To this end, conservation of resources by maximum use of renewable energy is a priority. Water, electricity and waste will be collected, consumed and disposed of in an environmentally sustainable manner.

The community will benefit directly from the following activities:

- Access to the training offered at the centre, to assist them in changing their own destiny.
- Employment in the form of skilled and unskilled labour and resources for the building and property development.
- Skills transfer during the building operation will result in the ability of those who benefit to use the skills acquired elsewhere after completion of the project.
- Improved accommodation for the pastor and improved office / meeting facilities for the pastor and *Lekhotlana* of the local congregation.
- A portion of the crops produced from the Maphutseng fields will be handed to the local church as an offering.
- The roller mill from Tebellong is being upgraded and will relocate to Maphutseng. This milling service will be available to the local community.
- A Memorandum of Understanding with the local church will be compiled to ensure that all expectations are realistic and issues are defined. This includes ownership and use of the buildings on site, boundaries of agricultural land, etc.
- Local people will be assisted to provide guest accommodation, which will ultimately benefit the providers financially and enhance the tourism potential of the area.
- There will be employment opportunities at the centre for local people, and communication of these opportunities will be through the local church.