

## News Update

The Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture through the Department of Environment held a workshop on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2013 to validate the strategy on the Coordination of Multilateral environment Agreements (MEA's). The MEA's are agreements among governments set towards attaining environmental conservation and economic growth through sustainable development. It was formulated to ensure the protection of the environment.

### **Aim of the Strategy**

- To manage diverse aspects of the environment
- To ensure protection of the environment

The majority of these MEAs were initiated at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, also known as the Stockholm Conference of 1972. MEA's are centred on, among others, climate change, drought and desertification, biological diversity, waste management and pollution control.

The vision and mission of the MEA's Coordination Strategy is aligned with the National Vision 2020, and Millennium Development Goal number 7 which advocated for environmental sustainability.

**VISION** of the strategy is ensuring that Lesotho's environment will be well managed through coordinated efforts of all MEA's focal institutions.

**MISSION** of the strategy is to outline and define a strategic framework for improved coordination in implementation of the MEA's.

The strategy outlined four strategic principles which are:

- i. **A healthy environment leads to a healthy community:** the services rendered by a healthy environment such as clean air and water reduce the effect of pollution on the health of the population, thereby reducing the health care loads on governments.*
- ii. **Stakeholder participation in implementation of MEAs:** environmental issues affect every sector of the community; therefore their participation will ensure that they own strategies and programs aimed at conservation and sustainable use of resources.*
- iii. **Harmonization of sectoral objectives on MEAs:** this will ensure development and implementation of harmonized plans and inclusion of environmental prerogatives in national development strategies.*
- iv. **Flexibility of strategy in responding to emerging issues:** climate change is likely to bring an onset of new diseases that will need urgent and coordinated response strategies to reduce their effect on communities, especially the vulnerable sectors.*