600_context and site

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The small nation of Lesotho is located in the heart of South Africa: entirely surrounded by South Africa. The land-locked nation is economically dependent on South Africa. ...% of its population work in South Africa.
The people of the area are of a rural nature living predominantly from farming and stock rearing. Mokhotlong town [bottom left] is the CBD of which the people of the district depend on. However, village clusters have general stores & other small amenities such as grain mills that complement their lifestyle.
Zooming into the region for the proposed dam to discern service amenities relative to the focus area, the intention being to inform and direct the design. The area as highlighted is the focus area for the intervention. The context analysis surveys the proximity of services as a design informing tool.

Figure 024. [LEFT]
"Site map sketch with proposed dam"
**Location Analysis**

**Nearby Tourist Attractions**

1. **Afriski Ski Resort**: 50 km away. Usually receives more guests than it can accommodate. Visitors go as far as Nokhotlong town for accommodation.

2. **Sani-Pass View Point**: Also a common tourist attraction for visitors staying in Nokhotlong town.

**Main Road Leading to Nokhotlong in Bad Condition**: Major deterrent for tourists to be discouraged as per dam development.

**General Transport**

- **Main Road Via Khensani**
- **Secondary School Nearest School to Focus Area**

**School**

- 250 students of 800 applicants from surrounding villages, indicative of a shortage in educational facilities.

**Site Chosen with Specific Reference to Proximity of Dam Wall & Large Expanse of Water as a Marketable Tourism Quality**

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*Figure 025. [Top Right] - Afriski Resort*  
*Figure 026. [Mid Right] - Sani Pass View*
Mokhotlong Town, of which people generally depend on for most of their daily to daily amenities.

- Administrative representatives who oversee entire district.
- Labour representatives in parliament.
- Police station/office.
- Officers deployed to remote areas stationed with tents.
- Clinic/recreation.
- Others ran out of homes of nurses.
- Bank/standard bank.
- General stores including bottle stores, bars, small scale supermarkets, whole sale.

Transport along via kombi taxi. Lifestyle of people even livestock help also have transport via kombi.

The advent of a dam presents opportunities for locals in terms of fishing and crop irrigation. Also a possibility for watersports for tourists.

Hardware & small building supplies.

- Lone market retail "Red" store.
- Lodges.
  - Hotel Sengqo.
  - Mokhotlong Inn.
A SITE

LOCAL ANALYSIS

LOOKS INTO INFLUENCES ON THE IMMEDIATE SITE, AS WELL AS THE USAGE AS PER THE LOCALS.

INCLUDED ARE THE THREE VILLAGES WITHIN THE BROAD FRAMEWORK.

THE IMPACT OF THE DAMS PRIMARY ON VILLAGES A & B, ALTHOUGH VILLAGE C - GIVEN ITS PROXIMITY - BASED ON WALKING DISTANCE AND INTER-VILLAGES RELATIONS - IS CATERED FOR WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SEASON/SPRING</th>
<th>WIND DIRECTION</th>
<th>MAX WIND</th>
<th>AVERAGE TEMP</th>
<th>PRECIPITATION</th>
<th>WET DAYS</th>
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| SUMMER        | N              | 15 m/s   | 18.5°C       | 35 mm         | 11.5/1-
| SPRING        | W              | 10 m/s   | 5°C          | 20 mm         | 5/1-
| WINTER        | NW             | 20 m/s   | 19.9°C       | 10 mm         | 1/1-

11401
SUN ANGLE 45°

2100
SUN ANGLE 90°
**Districts**

The main road forms an edge to the north, where the dam on the south, east and west forms the other edge making the area a distinct unto itself further characterized by the common lifestyle of the people and the interrelations of the communities.

**Edges**

Hypothetical boundary lines that bracket each individual community relative to a recognizable node.

**Nodes**

Chieffancies are immediately identifiable from the paths they form the centre of communities.

**Landmarks**

Currently there are no defined landmarks. Not even defined graveyards.

The framework implemented however, seeks to enrich the landscape with constructs that give reference to the area.

**Paths**

Familiar paths that bind people & communities together. These space defining paths have developed over time. Where some become more engrained than others.
THE DAM AND ITS DIRECT IMPACT ON THE TWO COMMUNITIES REQUIRES FOCUS ON THEM IN A CAPACITY TO USE AVAILABLE RESOURCES IN COMPLEMENTING THEIR RE-EVALUATED COMPENSATION INITIATIVE.
The village of Tsepong has to be relocated because of the threat of the floodline as impacting on the dwelling of future generations. Currently, the village has 26 households of 16 members, 72% of 16-65 years old, are unemployable and therefore resort to farming & herding livestock. The other 28% work in Noshongton town.
The village of Ha Konki - 86 households loses their livelihood of farmland to the catchment area.

Survey suggests that 81% of working age villagers (16-60 yrs.) are farmers & herd men or otherwise unemployed. The remaining 19% work in Nkhotakhona & nearby farm establishments in the area.
Interview 002 - Ntate Tseiso - Mokhotlong town

“Ntate Tseiso, how are you sir?
I’m fine thank you

I’m doing a project for school where I propose a new relocation scheme for people who are being displaced by the dam and I just wanted to ask you a few questions during our tour today...what do you do?

I am the chief of a village next to the airstrip [name] in town and I am also an aids awareness leader and counselor in the Mokhotlong area.

How do you feel about the dam?
I am happy about it, it is going to provide jobs for the people during its construction, but I am a little worried about the environmental impact it is going to have...errr the impact on the environment of the people...especially with respect to the spread of aids.

Oh I thought you meant in terms of climate

...yes that too...I am not sure the people understand how much of a change in climate a body of water has on a place. But coming back to the point of jobs, where man will find employment as workers, women may feel that this is an opportunity to make a living selling sex to traveling contractors... so poverty and lack of opportunity contributes to the spread of aids.

Is the dam going to affect any of your village?

No not at all, maybe just from the cool air from the water. The dam will run north of our village, so I am not sure of how it will affect us... but the people once they feel the effects of this will turn to me with arms in the air asking what am I going to do about it!

So the people rely on you quite heavily?

You could say that...mostly when they need a representative or a mediator

So you as a chief play an integral role in the community

Yes
• Would you say communities affected are at a loss by the dam? With their dependence on the money they expect to earn.

• Yes... I think that people feel as though this money will save them from something. That suddenly they will no longer be poor because they are getting money. Also, the highland water people have not really given enough information to the people in as far as what they can expect... some may be disappointed in the remuneration for their land... they have not really considered whether the money will compensate the sentimental value of having worked that land. People see money and forget everything else.

• I see, and the moving of some people, are you and your community prepared to take in people who want to move to your village.

• Well we as chiefs have been told that the highlands people will buy plots for houses for people who want to be located there. But I am worried that even though I am open to accept them, some people may resent that they got a free ride because of their positioning. This may impact their acceptance into my community. Also, earned ownership is very different from bought ownership.

• I am a little puzzled as to how some communities developed along road and some in areas that seem to be in the middle of nowhere.

• Most of the communities along the road developed there because of the services the roads provide. Particularly taxi routes into and out of Mokhotlong town. When they were building the roads, you find that transporting building materials for homes into the furthest areas was difficult so the shortest distance from the roads seemed to be the most optimal place to build. You’ll see, that’s why the places furthest from the road are built with stone rather than transported brick. But once informal roads have been established, the ones who have made a bit of money—say, from the mines—choose to have the brick transported to where they want to build. Look at schools for example. You won’t find many schools more than 10 min walk from the main road.”
interview 002-Ntate Thafi - Mokhotlong, ha konki

"Lumela [hello] Ntate thafi
Hallo Papa!
How long have you been living here
Eeee [yes]. Its now six tens and nine [69 years] that I have lived here. I came here when I was this old [holding up two fingers]
So you have known this place all your life
Mm [yes]
How do you feel about the dam?
Its good because it’ll be beneficial to the people who live here...it’ll bring us money...we want money
So if I understand correctly, the dam is going to require that you move?
Ya I hear them saying that
So you don’t want to have to leave

Of course not...where would I go, this is my home and there...there lives my chief, tell me my boy where would go?...without my chief...where? You see my boy; my chief is my representative I cannot be represented by some one else. I was being represented by his father before him and I watched that boy grow to stand in the place of is father. He respects me as I respect him...and even if we were to have ill relations and he says nxa! to me, he will still be my chief ...you understand [you hear]?
Yes ntafe...so if you had things your way you would have things the way they are...or would you rather move with your chief
Isn’t it that we want money...so things can’t remain the way they are. But Mmm [yes] we leave with him because he is my owner

...morena’ka o lula mane...ke ne ke tla’ea kea ha ke sa tsamae le ena?

...le ha’a kare nxa nonna o tla lula entse e le morena oa ka"
• And your land...and house?
• Man, soil is our heritage | birthright...it is our legacy...but...money in its stead is good but doesn’t entirely fill the gap. Its nice/ satisfying to work the land...the house... man we’ll just build again. Even when the heavy rains come we fix and build again.
• You know they are going to build you a house?
• What kind of a man has a house built for him like he is a woman...[laughing]. But we will embrace/accept it because it is ours to accept.
• And if you had a choice would you move to the city or mokhotlong town of choose to stay here?
• No! What will I be looking for there at this age? You must know I am preparing to go [die] very soon
• And your children?
• They are old already, they can take care of themselves and each other
• How do you think the dam affects them?
• The dams gives them a tomorrow in this area, through jobs and opportunities
• I think that is about all the questions I have for you
• Okay
• Thank you
• E but wait, aren’t you going to arrange something bitter to relieve the throat
• Haw how could I forget! I’ll make it happen ...thank you again"