

## AISI-Connect National ICT Profile LESOTHO (LS)

GENERAL DATA	ICT-INFRASTRUCTURE	ICT POLICIES
Capital: Maseru	Fixed lines (K) '98: 20	Competition in local loop: Monopoly
98 Population (M): 2.06	97-98 % Fixed Line Growth: -0.01	Competition in telephone terminals: No
Currency: LSL	98 Mobile Lines (K): 10	Independent regulator: No
Exch rate (/US\$): 6.116	Mobile Line Growth (%):	Private Wireless Data allowed: No
Currency Stability:	Cities with Internet POPs: 1	Independent Internet VSAT Allowed: No
97 GDP US\$/person: 547.0	Local Call National Internet: No	VSAT License Fees:
97 Total GDP (\$B):	Dialup Internet subscribers: 250	Satellite Phone access: No
Local Stock Exchange: No	International Bandwidth (Kbps): 512	Universal Service Obligations:
Personal Safety: 1	Internet Hosts: 17	IAP License Fees (\$/yr):
Political Stability:	Internet domains:	Private Phone Kiosks: No
Tertiary ICT Students:	Dialup Internet Cost 20hrs/mnth (\$):	Public VOIP Allowed: No
ICT Training seats:	64K Local Internet link (\$/mnth):	Business Ownership Rules:
ISDN: No	64K Internat Internet Link (\$/mnth):	Repatriation of Profits Rules:
VPN Services: No	Local phone call cost (US\$/hr):	Restrictions on market entry:
UNDP Human Devel Index:	Monthly tel line rental (\$/mnth):	Export Credit Guarantees:
.	Telephone waiting time/Wait List:	.
.	Internet Access Providers 2	.
.	Mobile Operators:	.
.	Fixed Line Telecom Operators:	.

[Key to table values](#) All figures above in US Dollars (\$)

### ICT Profile:

#### Internet:

**Lesotho Office Equipment** originally established a POP via a telephone exchange in South Africa but has recently opened a POP in the capital Maseru. A new ISP is **ilesotho**.

The cellular telephone provider Vodacom has a broadband TCP/IP based connection to its parent

network in South Africa.

The **National University of Lesotho** is the only public institution in Lesotho with a full Internet connection - the connectivity, a fibre link, is quite good from Maseru to Roma.

### **Telecommunications:**

The **Ministry of Transport and Communications** is responsible for the telecommunication sector but there is currently no independent regulator. A regulator is likely to be established as part of a cross-sectoral body with a telecoms department. Other liberalisation moves are also being considered, including financial restructuring of the telecom operator. As at July 1999 the process of establishing an independent regulatory authority is said to be at an "advanced stage".

The **Lesotho Telecommunications Corporation** is the sole provider of basic telecommunication services in the country. There are no data services in Lesotho. A cellular telephone service was recently established as a joint venture between LTC and Vodacom of South Africa. The telecommunications network is connected via fibre cable from South Africa.

The national network has steadily improved. In 1980 the country had a total of 3 500 connected subscribers. Now there are about 30 000 lines, but about three-quarters of those are in Maseru.

### **National ICT activities:**

The **Institute of Southern African Studies** is the ECA/PADIS focal point.

The **Lesotho Council of NGOs**, has indicated an interest in supporting electronic mail services for NGOs in Lesotho.

The **National Curriculum Development Centre**, has a LAN and uses email.

Other connected institutions include:

The **Transformation Research Centre**, an ecumenical NGO.

The **Central Bank of Lesotho**.

The **Lesotho Highlands Development Authority**

The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**.

## **Organisational Activities in the ICT Sector:**

**[Ministry of Transport and Communications of Lesotho](#)** Mr D Khetsi

**[Vodacom Lesotho](#)** This cellular telephone provider has a broadband TCP/IP based connection to its parent network in South Africa, but does not appear to be considering providing Internet services via this connection.

**[ilesotho](#)** A new ISP - details not yet available. It has a 64Kb Diginet connection into Lesotho.  
<http://www.ilesotho.com/>

**[Institute of Southern African Studies](#)** It is the ECA/PADIS focal point and was provided with a PC and 10 2400Kbps modems under the CABECA project. ISAS is based at the NUL and was similarly unable to provide communication facilities for outside agencies because of the telephone network. <http://www.lesoff.co.za/isas>

**Lesotho Office Equipment** Has recently established a POP in Maseru, having previously used Ladybrand in South Africa, which involved a long distance call for users. Users are warned not to delete their old settings in case of problems with the Lesotho phone lines. While not as expensive as most international calls, at US\$7 an hour, the Ladybrand connection was quite expensive for most potential users. LOE also has POPs in most other parts of South Africa. It has a 64Kb Diginet connection into Lesotho. <http://www.lesoff.co.za/> Billy Moore [billy@lesoff.co.za](mailto:billy@lesoff.co.za)

**National University of Lesotho** It is the only public institution in Lesotho with a full Internet connection. The link connects internationally via the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein to UniNet, the academic network in South Africa, developed with assistance from the Dutch national co-operation programme.

NUL is located in the town of Roma, about 30kms from the capital, Maseru. The Institute of Southern African Studies is based at the NUL.

NUL has had a 64Kb circuit since about mid-1998 and has roughly 300 registered email users on its network. All students will have full internet access from the beginning of August ie. roughly 2000 "new" users.

The Maseru campus (IEMS) is connected to Roma via a 64Kb Diginet circuit (and Roma is connected to the CSIR.) They are running an Internet Cafe in Maseru that is open to the public. The charges are around M10.00 per hour.

NUL has extended its network to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs using a dial-up link. They have a fifty station network. All users can use the net. They are planning to get a leased line.

NUL has about sixteen modems which are accessible to staff twenty-four hours a day. They are heavily used. The number will increase to 24 by the end of August 1999. They are in the process of rolling out about three hundred new network points using fibre, copper, and radio. They have about 200 points currently installed in Roma. <http://www.nul.ls/> Lebeko Sello [ll.sello@nul.ls](mailto:ll.sello@nul.ls)

**Central Bank of Lesotho** Has a connection to internet. <http://www.lesoff.co.za/centralbank>

**Lesotho Highlands Development Authority** Has a connection. <http://www.lesoff.co.za/lhda>

**Lesotho Council of NGOs** Has indicated an interest in supporting electronic mail services for NGOs in Lesotho.

---

Source:

AISI-Connect database - <http://www2.sn.apc.org/africa> Telecom/GDP stats source: ITU/World Bank. Internet hosts: Network Wizards

If located in Africa and not listed here, [add your organisation to this page.](#)