Earth Observation Product for Lesotho

Provision of a satellite based snow cover product tailored to the users‘ needs
Background
Water is crucial for human health, food production and livestock as well as an important source of export earnings for the country of Lesotho. Snow cover represents an essential water storage to Lesotho’s limited and economically critical water resources. A better understanding of interannual snow cover variations can help to improve water resource management.

Snow cover product for Lesotho
Within the project an easy-to-use and accurate snow cover product for local stakeholders and World Bank Task Teams is developed. It is based on satellite data and comprises the areal extent of snow cover for the period 2000-2013. To ensure that the product is tailored to the users’ needs, the development process is closely accompanied by a user dialogue. An on-site training session will further build users’ capacities in the use of the provided snow cover product.

Project set-up
The project is part of the “Earth Observation for Development - eoworld” initiative - a collaboration between the European Space Agency ESA and the World Bank. Recognizing the value of using Earth observation to support development activities, the initiative aims to mainstream the use of satellite data. The project is funded by ESA and implemented by the Federal Office of Meteorology and Climatology MeteoSwiss in collaboration with the University of Bern.

www.meteoswiss.ch/lesotho

Picture credits: Di Jones / Flickr (front, back second left); ESA (back second right); Christian Wörtz / Wikimedia (back right)