



Lesotho

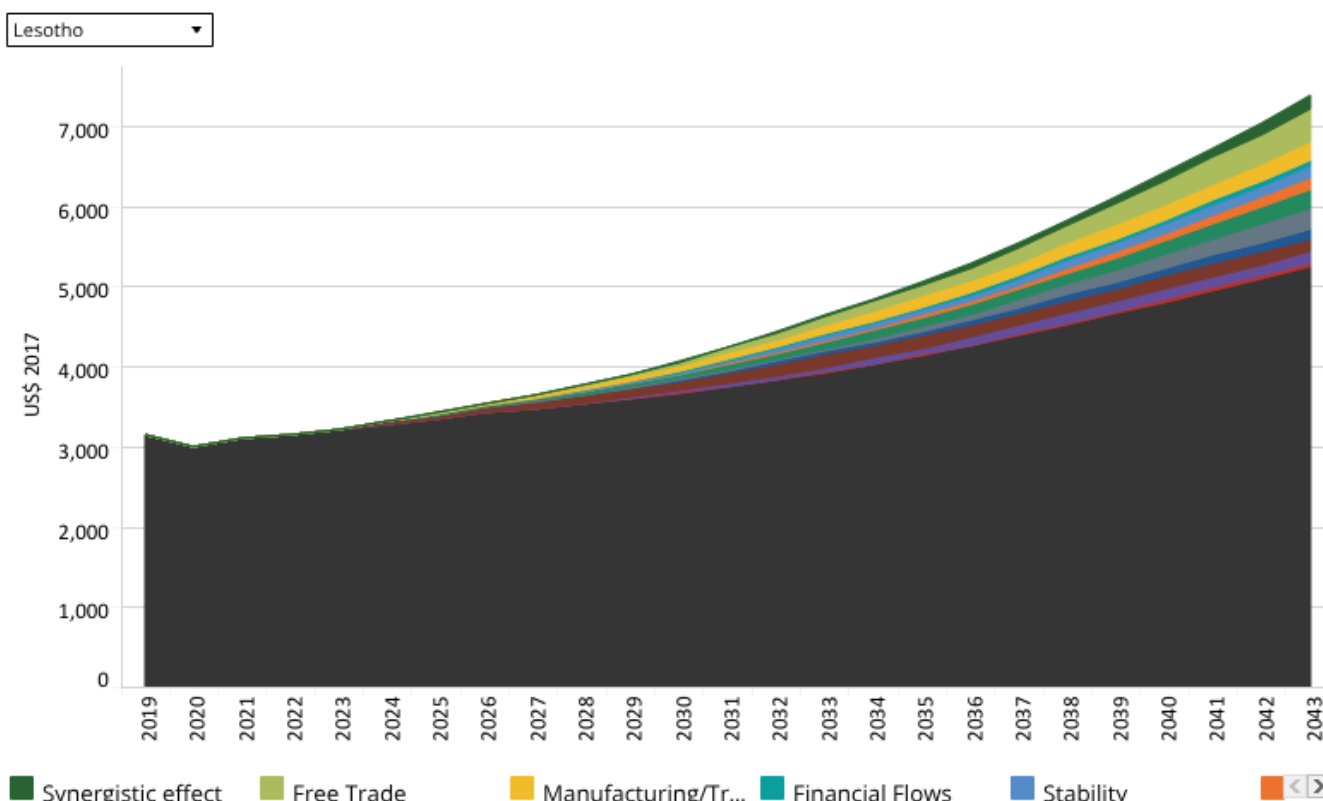
Combined Agenda 2063 scenario

Alize le Roux

Last updated 13 December 2023 using IFs v7.63

Chart 55: GDP per capita in CP and scenarios, 2019–2043

Additional GDP per capita per scenario, purchasing power parity



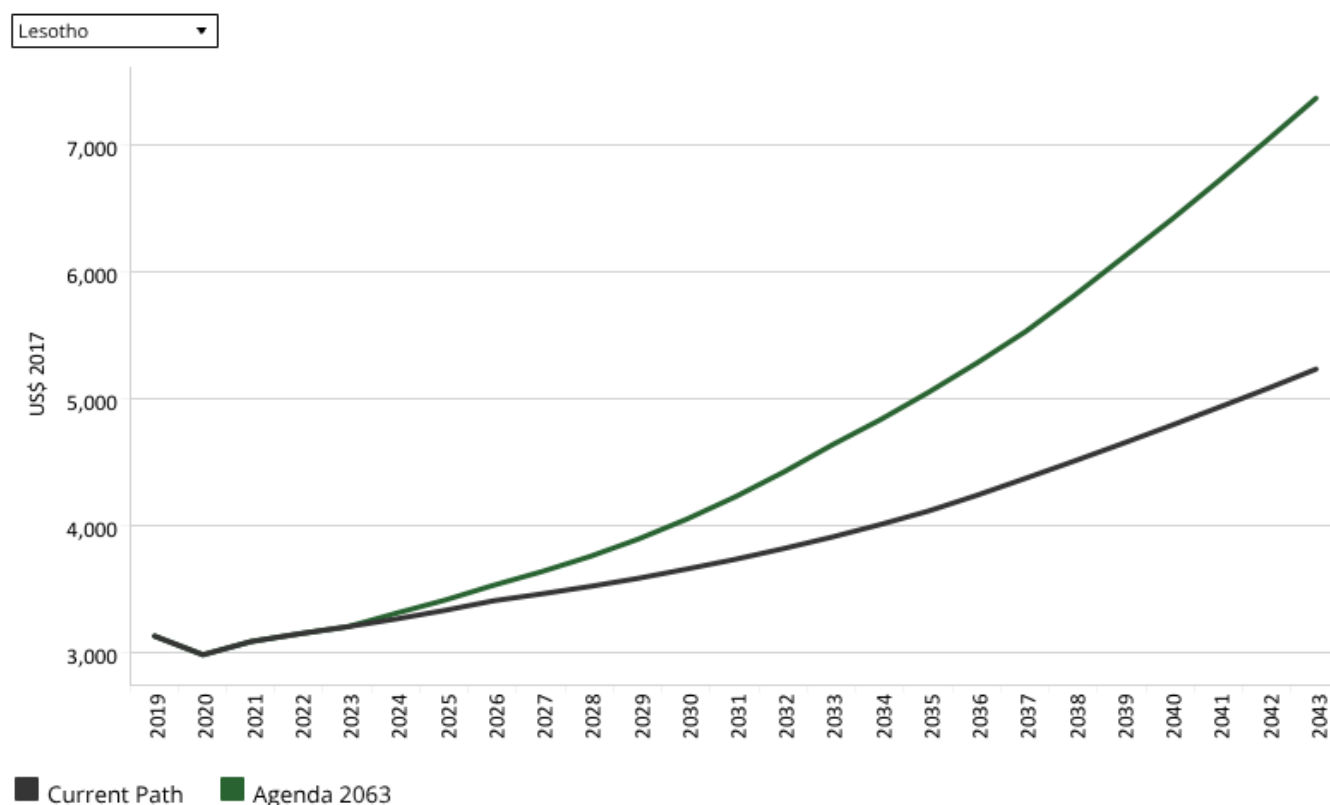
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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The Combined Agenda 2063 scenario consists of the combination of all 11 sectoral scenarios presented above, namely the Stability, Demographic, Health/WaSH, Agriculture, Education, Manufacturing/Transfers, Leapfrogging, Free Trade, Financial Flows, Infrastructure and Governance scenarios. The cumulative impact of better education, health, infrastructure, etc. means that countries get an additional benefit in the integrated IFs forecasting platform that we refer to as the synergistic effect. Chart 55 presents the contribution of each of these 12 components to GDP per capita in the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario as a stacked area graph.

Although Lesotho faces economic challenges as outlined in the previous sections, there are plenty of opportunities to improve the future of the country. Improving intra-Africa trade (as captured in the Free Trade scenario) will raise GDP per capita most by 2043 by an additional US\$413 above the Current Path forecast. Increasing stability and subsequent investment inflows (as captured in the Stability scenario) will raise GDP per capita by 2043 by US\$154 above the Current Path forecast while investment in infrastructure could raise income by US\$253 in 2043 above the Current Path forecast. The synergistic effect of a Combined Agenda 2063 scenario that assumes improvements are made in all 11 broad intervention areas could add an additional US\$170 in 2043 on top of the combined per capita income. The Health/WaSH and Financial Flows scenarios are the interventions that will lead to the least improvement in GDP per capita by 2043 valued at US\$53.4 and US\$58.9, respectively.

Chart 56: GDP per capita in CP and Combined scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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Whereas Chart 55 presents a stacked area graph on the contribution of each scenario to GDP per capita as well as the additional benefit or synergistic effect, Chart 56 presents only the GDP per capita in the Current Path forecast and the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario.

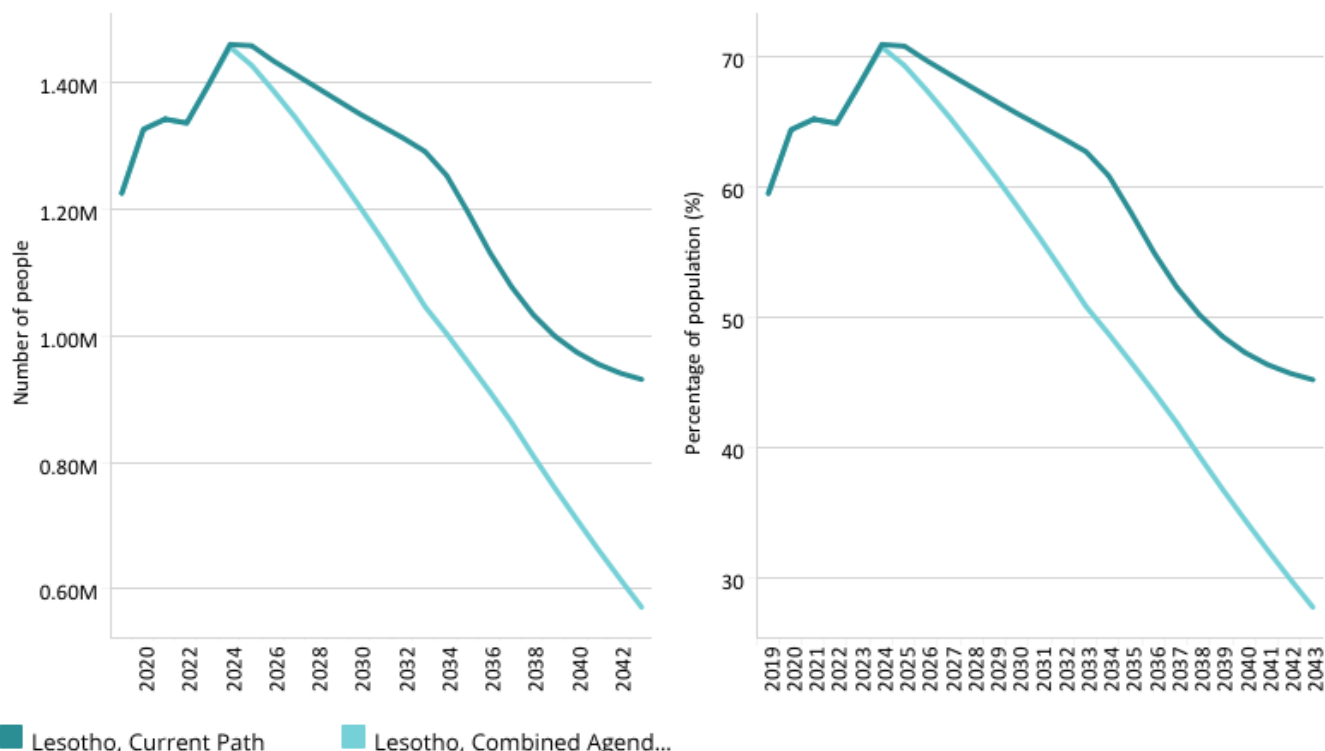
The Combined Agenda 2063 scenario has the potential to raise GDP per capita in Lesotho to US\$7 375 by 2043, a significant US\$2 135 above the Current Path forecast for the same year. The Combined Agenda 2063 scenario shows that a policy push across all the development sectors is necessary to achieve greater economic growth and development in Lesotho.

Chart 57: Poverty in CP and Combined scenario, 2019–2043

Millions of people and % of total population



Lesotho \$3.20



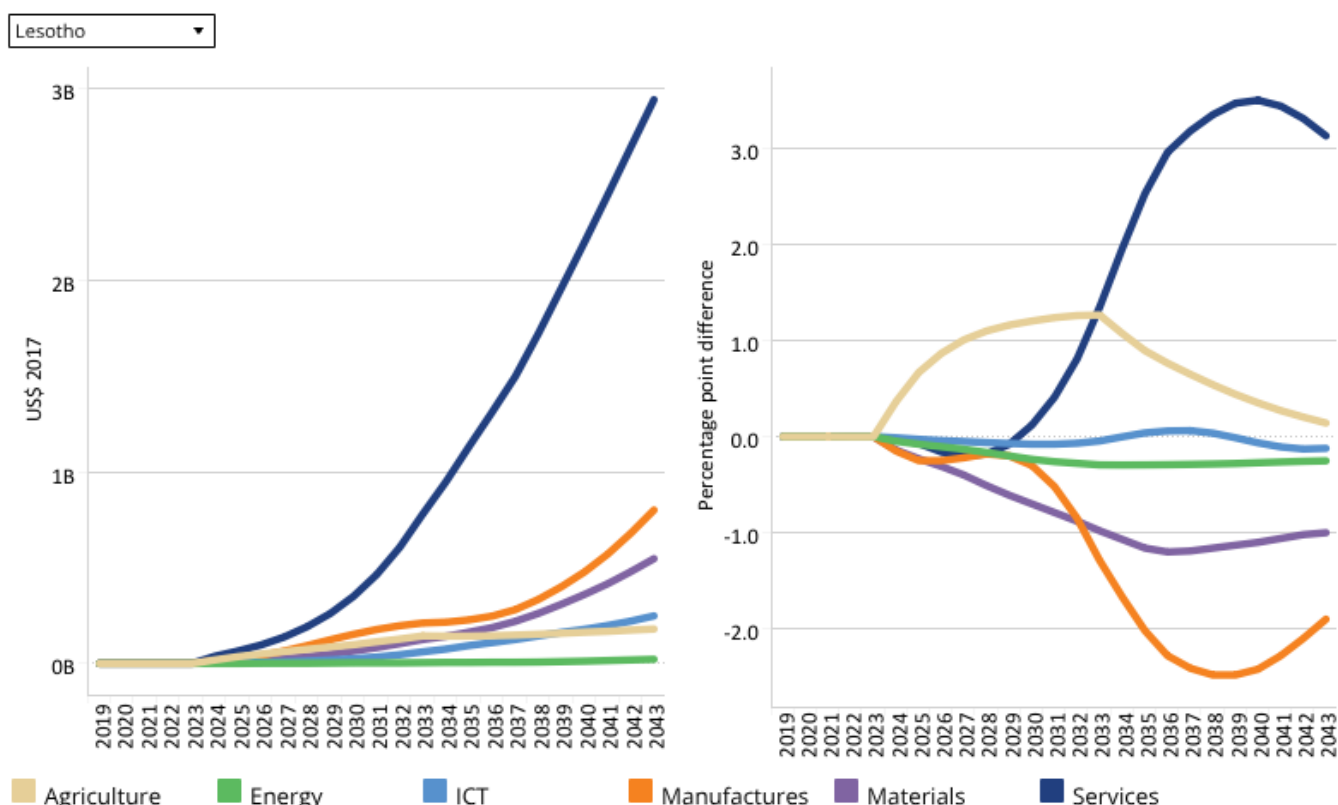
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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Without economic growth, Lesotho's poverty will remain largely unchanged. The Combined Agenda 2063 interventions can significantly benefit the economy of the country reducing the poverty burden thereof. If Lesotho can effectively implement measures as outlined in the Combined Agenda 2063, poverty can be reduced from 59.5% in 2019 to 27.7% in 2043. The scenario therefore has the potential to reduce poverty in 2043 by 17.5 percentage points compared to the Current Path forecast meaning that the scenario can reduce extreme poverty in Lesotho by an additional 360 000 people by 2043.

Chart 58: Value added by sector in CP and Combined scenario, 2019–2043
Absolute and % point difference GDP



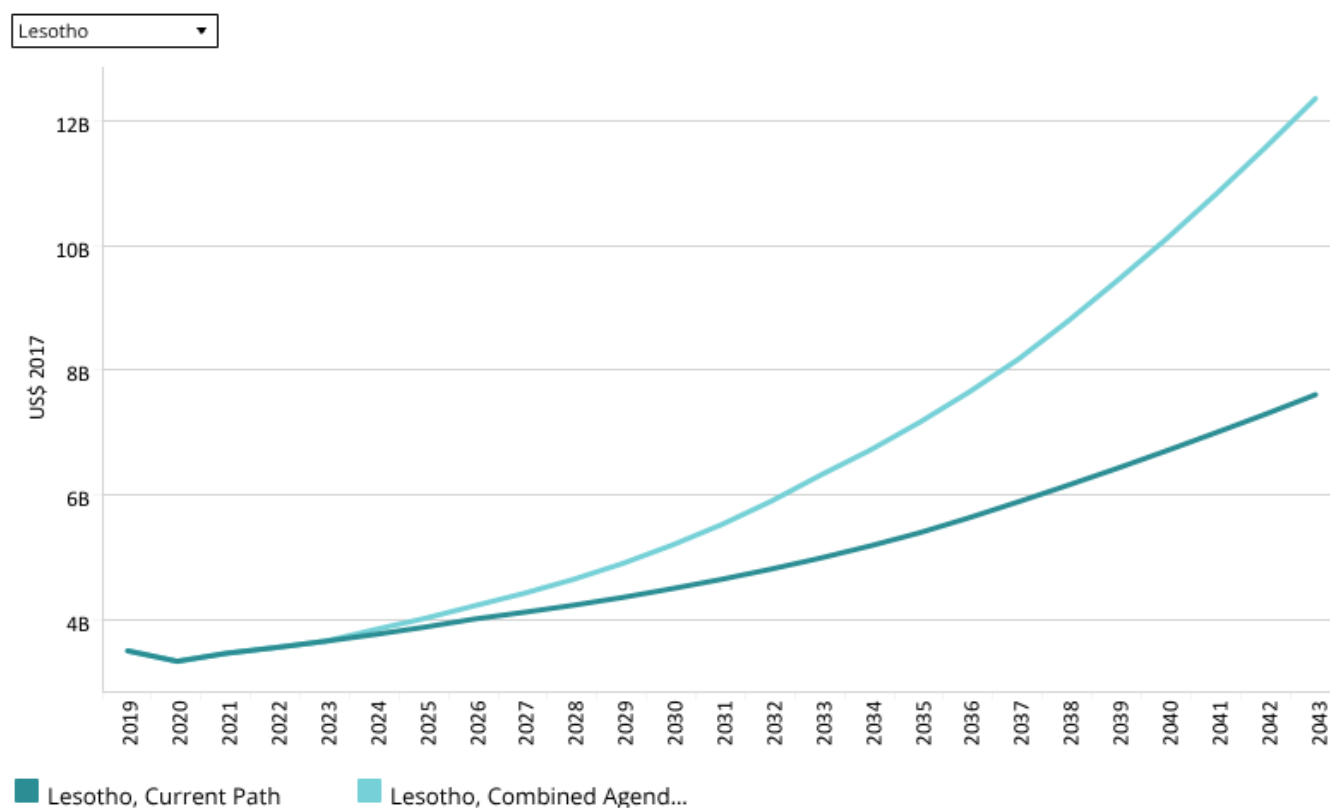
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See [Chart 8](#) to view the Current Path forecast of the sectoral composition of the economy.

The service sector will contribute 3 percentage points more to GDP in the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario compared to the Current Path forecast, equivalent to a difference of US\$2.9 billion by 2043. Agriculture will contribute 0.1 percentage points more, which will translate to a value of US\$180 million by 2043. Although the manufacturing sector is projected to make an absolute contribution of US\$800 million by 2043, this will correspond to 1.9 percentage points below the Current Path. Likewise contribution of materials and energy will also be 0.1 and 0.3 percentage points below the Current Path.

Chart 59: GDP in CP and Combined scenario, 2019–2043
Billions US\$ 2017, market exchange rates



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from International Monetary Fund World Economic Outlook database

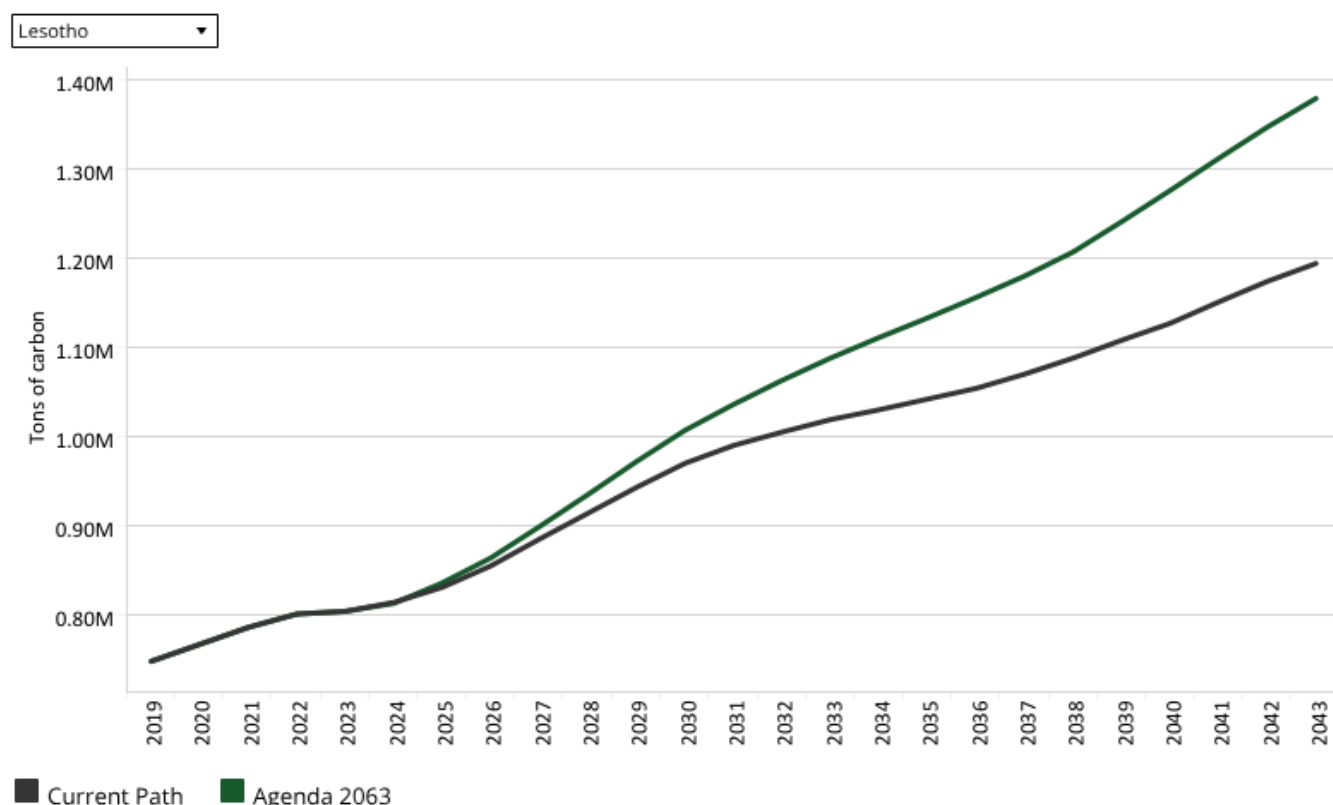
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Lesotho's GDP is forecast to grow to US\$12.3 billion by 2043 in the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario, compared to US\$7.6 in the Current Path forecast. It means that in the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario, the size of the Lesotho economy will grow by an additional 62%. This shows the value that the interventions in the 11 sectoral scenarios could have on economic growth.

Chart 60: Carbon emissions in CP and Combined scenario, 2019–2043

Million tons of carbon (note, not CO₂ equivalent)



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center data

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In 2019, Lesotho's carbon emissions were 0.7 million tons and they are projected to increase to 1.4 million tons of carbon by 2043 in the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario, 0.2 million tons above the Current Path forecast for 2043. The higher carbon emissions in the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario reflect the ambitious economic growth that is projected to occur in this scenario.

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About the authors

Ms Alize le Roux joined the AFI in May 2021 as a senior researcher. Before joining the ISS, she worked as a principal geo-informatics researcher at the CSIR, supporting various local and national policy- and decision-makers with long-term planning support. Alize has 14 years of experience in spatial data analysis, disaster risk reduction and urban and regional modelling. She has a master's degree in geographical sciences from the University of Utrecht, specialising in multi-hazard risk assessments and spatial decision support systems.

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