UNITED NATIONS
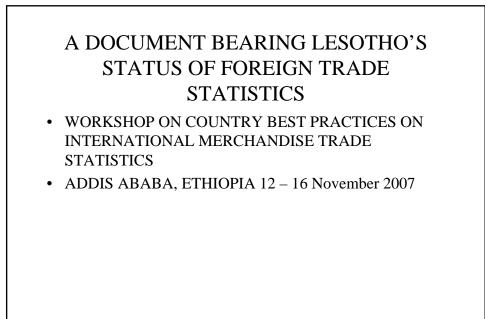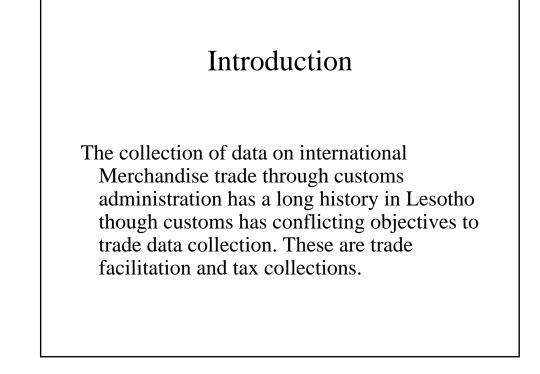DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR AFRICA

**International Workshop on Country Practices in Compilation of
International Merchandise Trade Statistics, 12-16 November 2007, Addis Ababa**

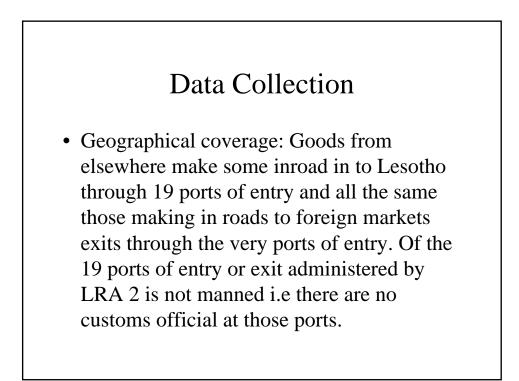*Country Presentation*
Statistics Lesotho

Item 11: Coverage and time of recording

A DOCUMENT BEARING LESOTHO'S STATUS OF FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS

- WORKSHOP ON COUNTRY BEST PRACTICES ON INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS
- ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA 12 – 16 November 2007

Introduction

The collection of data on international Merchandise trade through customs administration has a long history in Lesotho though customs has conflicting objectives to trade data collection. These are trade facilitation and tax collections.
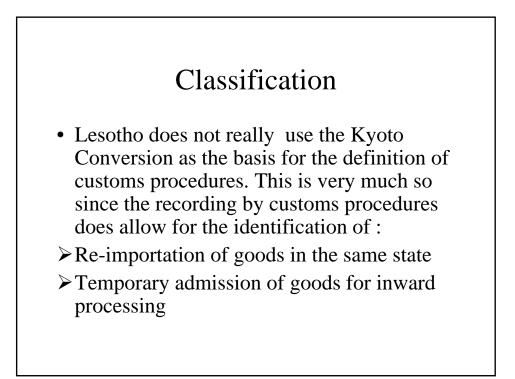
Introduction

However, the Bureau of Statistics (BoS) holds overall responsibility for the compilation, including data editing, database maintenance and dissemination. Customs is responsible for collection of basic records and for supplying BoS with those records on a regular basis; normally customs carry out some editing of records before they are relayed to the BoS. The BoS further edits the customs records and merges them with information from non customs sources.

Data Collection

- Geographical coverage: Goods from elsewhere make some inroad in to Lesotho through 19 ports of entry and all the same those making in roads to foreign markets exits through the very ports of entry. Of the 19 ports of entry or exit administered by LRA 2 is not manned i.e there are no customs official at those ports.
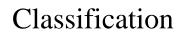
Data Collection

- Transaction Coverage: transactions included aggregate totals and detailed levels of
- ➤ Aid
- ➤ Parcel post goods
- ➤ Electricity
- ➤ Transactions below a specified threshold value
- ➤ Migrant workers' personal effect

Classification

- Lesotho does not really use the Kyoto Conversion as the basis for the definition of customs procedures. This is very much so since the recording by customs procedures does allow for the identification of :
- ➤ Re-importation of goods in the same state
- ➤ Temporary admission of goods for inward processing

Classification

➢ Temporary exportation of goods for outward processing

➢ Re-importation of goods after temporary exportation

➢ Goods leaving a customs warehouse

Classification

- The customs procedures do not allow for the identified of importation of goods under clearance for home use whether it is a re-admission on the same state or not.

Classification

- Customs procedures do not really conform strictly to the International Conversion on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs procedures outlined in the Kyoto conversion

Trade System

- The system used is the General Trade System. By definition this implies that imports includes all goods entering the economic territory of Lesotho and exports includes all goods leaving the economic territory of Lesotho.

Data Processing

- LRA is not computerized yet, however, initiatives have started already. The automation process is now on implementation stage and the system to be adopted is the South African Revenue service trade system called CCA1 system

Data Processing

- Bos has the system named Eurotrace, it is mainly used to capture data into the system and to process that data. Since LRA passes hard copies of declaration documents to BoS there are 14 data entry operators whose task is to key in the records.