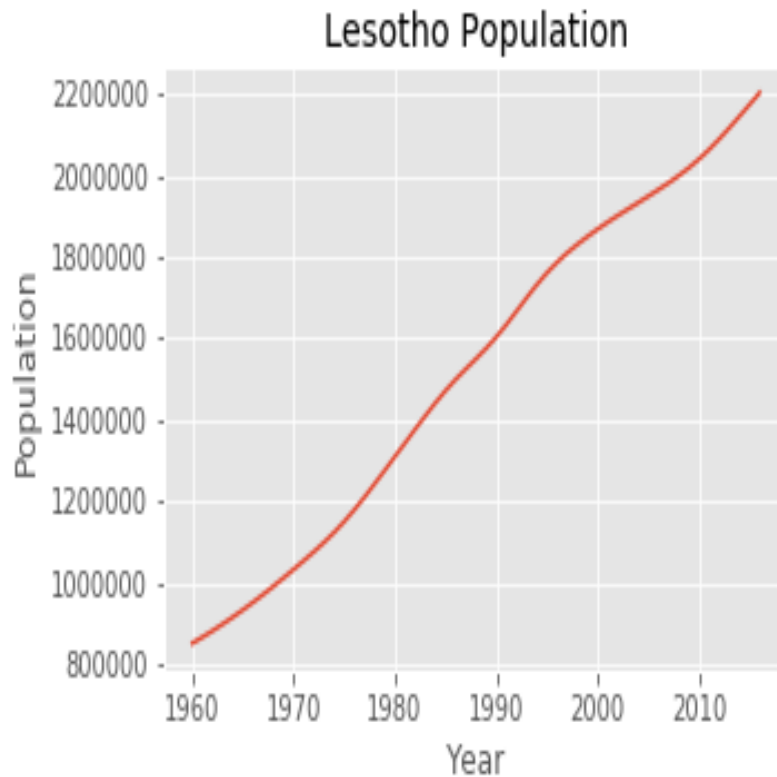


Lesotho



Coordinates: 29°36′S 28°18′E / 29.6°S 28.3°E / -29.6; 28.3— in Africa (light blue & dark grey) – in the African Union (light blue) Lesotho (/ˈlʊsuˈtu/ (listen), L-SOO-too), officially the Kingdom of Lesotho (Sotho: Muso oa Lesotho), is an enclaved country in southern Africa, completely surrounded by South Africa. It is just over 30,000 km² (11,583 sq mi) in size and has a population of around 2 million. Its capital and largest city is Maseru. Previously known as Basutoland, Lesotho declared independence from the United Kingdom on 4 October 1966. It is a member of the United Nations, the Commonwealth of Nations and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The name Lesotho translates roughly into "the land of the people who speak Sesotho". About 40 percent of the population lives below the international poverty line of US\$1.25 a day. The original inhabitants of the area now known as Lesotho were the San people. Examples of their rock art can be found in the mountains throughout the area.