

Summary Report
Somali Connection to Land and Economics of Land Degradations (ELD)
A Joint UNCCD NAP Consultation



Photo credit: UNDP Somalia

Report prepared by
Harum Mukhayer
Natural Resource Policy Specialist
UNDP Somalia

ELD Somalia Report Summary

1) Background to the ELD/ NAP Consultative Process

In Somalia, the joint consultative workshop for the National Action Programme (NAP), under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) brought together various stakeholders. The sessions were organised by the Ministry of Environment and Rural Development (MoERD) in Hargeisa, Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism (MoEWT) in Garowe, and Ministry of Environment and National Resources (MoENR) in Mogadishu. Technical support and facilitation was provided by UNEP/UNDP Somalia, with representation from the ELD Initiative.

The joint NAP-ELD consultations for Somalia were held throughout April-July. In Hargeisa, Somaliland, 75 stakeholders were consulted on 5-6th May 2015. Due to security concerns in Puntland, Garowe consultations were conducted in the United Nations Common Compound (UNCC), with 21 stakeholders from government agencies and NGOs. Federal level consultations in Mogadishu are envisaged to be conducted by the Ministry of Environment, with regional and sub-regional representatives for state and non-state actors.¹

The purpose of the consultations was to develop a holistic view of the biophysical state of land as it relates to desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) in Somalia, with emphasis on the socio-economic implications. The consultative workshops were preceded by 4 days of focus group discussions with stakeholders from government agencies responsible for land, traditional elders and civil society. Followed by interviews and questionnaire data collection from 23rd April through to 2nd July 2015. The proceedings from the joint NAP-ELD consultations and focused groups discussions are presented in this report.

The NAP/ ELD consultations in Garowe and Hargeisa pointed to three priority areas:

- 2) Communal grazing lands need to be regulated and sustainably managed, and construction of private enclosures on communal land prohibited
- 3) Urban sprawl must be curtailed and negative effects on land degradation mitigated
- 4) Infrastructure and transportation networks must be constructed in such a way so as to minimise the effects of land degradation (particularly gully- erosion) and natural disasters.

¹ For detailed participant lists see Annex I of this report. The national ELD consultations are planned to be held later on this month in Mogadishu.

2) Importance of ELD for Somalia

Land and its resources is a development priority for the Somali people. It features in the Somali Compact, Puntland Development Plan, and Pillars 1 and 4 of the Somaliland Development Plan. The inability to respond adequately to the cyclical drought-flood pattern is damaging to land, livelihoods and the economy. A recurring concern from stakeholder consultations pointed to the need to link land-use management to the development of the region. Particularly in pastoralist and agro-pastoralist areas that are affected by severe droughts and flooding.

In Somaliland and Puntland productivity of land and its natural resources was directly linked to security and conflict resolution. The key actions prioritised by stakeholders during consultations were:

- To improve peace and avoid conflict among people
- To resettle borders and identify the rangelands and forests
- To protect against overgrazing, desertification, and soil erosion
- To strengthen connection between regional officers and central government
- To encourage people to find good and suitable environments for settlements.

3) Key Messages from Consultations

◆ Food insecurity and dependence of the national economy on land

Threat to livelihoods and food security as a result of DLDD was the primary concern of majority of stakeholders consulted. The dependence of the national economy on land for grazing and livestock production was also considered a critical reinforcing factor for immediate and concerted efforts to combat DLDD.

◆ Escalating land conflicts as evidence for immediate need for action

The increasing incidents of land conflict were considered as evidence to support the immediate call for action to reverse DLDD. Whether it relates to sustainably managing land in conflict affected areas (e.g. northwestern border regions between Somaliland and Puntland) or reducing the occurrence of conflict over land and scarce resources in more stable parts of the country.

◆ Localised incidents of drought

Traditional elders in Gumburaha flagged the occurrence of localised incidents of drought as one of the key problems facing Somaliland. This phenomenon is also apparent in parts of Puntland and south-central Somalia. It manifests in one region suffering extreme droughts (through 2-3 missed cycles of rain) while an adjacent region 10- 15 km away receives regular seasonal showers.

◆ Unplanned Urban Sprawl and Absence of necessary infrastructure

Demand for trees, timber, and shrubs for food and shelter were raised as the main causes of localised incidents of drought. Distribution of water by trucks,

and transportation of commodities through “mobile camps” which facilitate trade between small village centres was considered as an immediate cause of persistent land degradation in the Hawd zone, Nugal Valley and Karkar/Darood Valley.

4) Link between ELD and NAP

The ELD and NAP formulation processes were based on the same methodology, drawing from primary and secondary sources of data collection. Concepts of ELD were incorporated in the development of the theoretical framework and focus on ecosystem services. The ELD presentation and video were shared with stakeholders at the onset of the consultative workshops, creating a focus on the “value of soil”.

Section 3 of the Somali NAP on the *Socio-Economic Impact of Land Degradation* is based on stakeholder inputs on the ELD component of the methodology. The ELD report elaborates and emphasises the discussion summarised in Section 3 of the Somali NAP.

5) Importance of ELD for SDGs

In September 2015, the UN Summit in New York will launch the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 17 SDGs will set the international agenda on environment, social change and economic development for the next 15 years. Special consideration has been made to incorporate the draft SDGs into the Somali NAP to facilitate future linkages in planning and programming.

The primary importance of the ELD for the SDGs and the transition towards land degradation neutrality lies in the reflection of economic value of land and development of indicators to assess progress towards the SDGs and objectives of the UNCCD. ELD offers a methodology that can be adapted to any context to aid in the development of socio-economic baselines. In context of the Somali NAP, the role of the ELD was considered as critical to the achievement of the Somali NAP Operational Objective 5 as relates to the development of a macroeconomic framework for resource mobilisation.

6) Participants

Somaliland Consultations 2 – 3rd May 2015

Venue: Ambassador Hotel

Stakeholders consulted included participants from the six regions Awdal, Saaxil, Maroodi-Jeeh, Tog-dheer, Sool, Sanaag represented by Traditional elders and Governors and Deputy Governors from each region. Government ministries engaged in the consultation processes included: Commissioner of NERAD and technical specialists, Minister of Ministry of Livestock and Animal Husbandry (MoLAH) including regional coordinators, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI), Minister of Water Resources (MoWR), Ministry of

Public Works representative (MoPW). Ministry of National Planning and Development (MoNPD), Ministry of Interior (MoI), and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA).

From the legislative branch of the Somaliland government, Parliamentary Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and Traditional elders and religious leaders were represented. Members of civil society included NGOs and research institutes: Candlelight, ADO, PENHA, HYDA, HIRDA, HAVOYOCO, IRADA, Partner Aid, SONYO, SONSAD, Oxfam, UNOCHA, University of Hargeisa, Golis University, and women's group Nagaad Umbrella.

Annex I: List of Participants, Somaliland Consultations 2-3 May 2015

Name	Title	Location	Contacts
Jama Hussein Mohamed	MoERD, Coordinator	Hawd	4130845
Fadxiya Yusuf Esse	MoERD, Coordinator	Gebiley	4424803
Fadumo Ali Rooble	MoERD, Coordinator	Berbera	4418564
Abdillahi Hussein Jama	MoERD, District Coordinator	Burao	4423465
Hussein Talaahi	MoERD, Coordinator	Erigabo	4200226
Yasin Mohamed Hassan	MoERD, Coordinator	Las-Anod	4490100
Mohamed Abdirahman	MoERD, coordinator	Borama	4458662
Hibo Ibrahim Hashi	MoERD	Hargeisa	
MOERD	MoERD	Hargeisa	
MOERD	MoERD	Hargeisa	
MOERD	MoERD	Hargeisa	
MOERD	MoERD	Hargeisa	
MOERD	MoERD	Hargeisa	
Ahmed Abdi Jama	Governor of Sanaag	Erigabo	4436526
Fahmi Abdi Bidaar	Governor of Saaxil	Berbera	
Mohamed Ali Saleebaan	Governor of Awdal	Borama	4454001
Yasin Mohamed Shide	Governor of Sool	Las-Anod	4436740
Mohamed Mohamoud	Governor -Marodijeex	Hargeisa	
Mohamed Muse Diiriye	Governor of Togdheer	Togdheer	4010565
Ministry of Livestock	Ministry of Livestock	Hargeisa	
Ministry of Agriculture	Ministry of Agriculture	Hargeisa	
Ministry of Public Works	Ministry of Public Works	Hargeisa	
Ministry of Water	Ministry of Water	Hargeisa	
Mubarik Mohamed Ahmed	MoNP&D	Hargeisa	4477320
Ahmed Abdillahi Fadal	MoNP&D	Hargeisa	4424434
Mohamed Muse Awale	NERAD	Hargeisa	4424079
Ministry of Interior	MOI	Hargeisa	
Ministry of Labour and	MOLSA	Hargeisa	
Hargeisa Municipality	Hargeisa Municipality	Hargeisa	
Ministry of Information	Ministry	Hargeisa	
Member of Parliament	Somaliland Parliament	Hargeisa	
Member of Parliament	Somaliland Parliament	Hargeisa	
Abdiqani Hussein	NGO/candlelight	Hargeisa	4414953
Hussein Ismail	NGO/ADO	Hargeisa	4429664
Abdiaziz Yusuf Bakal	NGO/PENHA	Hargeisa	4427727
Sadia Mohamed Ahmed	NGO/PENHA	Hargeisa	4427170
HYDA	NGO/HYDA	Hargeisa	
Abdirisaq Ali Ahmed	NGO/HAVOYOCO	Hargeisa	4423499
Abdirizaq Abaadir	NGO/IRADA	Hargeisa	63445654
SONYO	SONYO/Youth	Hargeisa	
SONYO	SONYO/Youth	Hargeisa	
SONYO	SONYO/Youth	Hargeisa	
Ahmed Mohamed Egal	NGO/HARDA	Hargeisa	4745223

Name	Title	Location	Contacts
Aden Abdilahi Ali	NGO/BVO	Hargeisa	4413376
Nur Aden Shirdoon	NGO/SAYS	Borama	63445656
NAGAAD	NGO/Nagaad umbrella	Hargeisa	4427496
NAGAAD	NGO/Nagaad umbrella	Hargeisa	
Abdifatah Mohamed Omer	UOH/ Dean of faculty of	Hargeisa	4423689
Mohamed Barwaani	SONSAF	Hargeisa	
Mohamed Ahmed Hassan	Berbera Religious elder	Berbera	
Ismail Yusuf Ismail	Burao Pastoralist	Burao	63487093
Hussein Yusuf Duale	Erigabo Agropastoralist	Erigabo	4227007
Hassan Omer Habane	Gebiley Traditional Elder	Gebiley	63375366
Sheikh Mohamed Sheikh	Gebiley Religious elder	Gebiley	63375366
Qamandi Saleebaan Cali	Las-Anod Traditional Elder	Las-Anod	4497245
Abdirizaq Mohamed Elmi	Las-Anod Religious Elder	Las-Anod	4496664
Sheikh Daahir Yusuf	Borama Religious elder	Borama	44501151
Abdi Muhumed Farah	Borama Traditional Elder	Borama	
Caaqil Abdi Jama	Hawd Traditional Elder	Hawd	4406710
Qaasim Mohamed Hussein	Hawd Pastoralist	Hawd	4483504
Abdiqaadir Abdi Awaare	Erigabo Traditional Elder	Erigabo	
Ahmed Mohamed Daahir	Burao Traditional Elder	Burao	
Seed Mohamed Daahir	Facilitator/translator	Facilitator	44506056
Ali Ismail	FAO SWALM	Hargeisa	
Ahmed Yasin	Oxfam	Hargeisa	
Hassan Warsame	UNOCHA	Hargeisa	
HAVOYOCO	NGOs	Hargeisa	
PARTNER AID	NGOs	Hargeisa	
HIRDA	NGOs	Hargeisa	
Gollis	Academia	Hargeisa	
University of Hargeisa	Academia	Hargeisa	
Abdillahi Aw-muse	Religious elder	Burao	4475640
Ibrahim Mohamed Abdi	Coordinator MOERD	Oodweyne	
Mohamed Jama Esse	Coordinator MOERD Saraar	Saraar	
Ahmed Duale Warsame	Hargeisa Participant	Hargeisa	63442474

List of Participants: Puntland Consultations 12- 13th May 2015 and 17th June 2015

Representatives from environmental line ministries consulted, regional coordinators and civil society.

Name	Institution	Tel
12th- 13th May 2015		
Saidah Hussein Ali	Ministry of Agriculture	090-7794203
Abdirahman Yusuf Farah	Ministry of Public Works	090-7794206
Mustafa Dahir Adam	Ministry of Livestock	090-7973355
Amina Mohamed Nour	Ministry of Women	090-7797907
Abdillahi Said Mohamed	Ministry of Fisheries	090-7797625
Osman Abdi Shabell	PSAWEN	090-7729806
Abdillahi Abdirahman	HADMA	090-7725379
SaedMohamoud Mohamed	PDRC	090-7746785
Osman Haji Abdi	FOA	
Ahmed Mohamed	CARE	7794451
Representative	PUNSA	
A.ELMi	ADESO	
Representative	Ministry of Interior	
Abdullahi Mohamed	Ministry of Environment	7752664
Liinbaan Mohamed Farah	Ministry of Environment	7997069
Maryan Mohamed Aden	Ministry of Environment	7205545
Eyl Environment Officer		
Karkaar Regional		
Sool District Officer		
17th June 2015		
Deemax Daahir	Ministry of Agriculture	7744167
Xaawo Driseeq	Ministry of Public Works	7931015
Xalimo c/Raxman	Ministry of Livestock	7767610
Maymoun Khayir	PSAWEN	7787264
Fadumo Cali Xussien		7714867
Musa Mohamed Hassan	Ministry of Environment	7741246
Maxamud Saladquo	Ministry of Environment	7744334
C/laahi Awaamed	Elder	7668160
Ali Ahmed	Elder	6517071
Mohamed Isse	Ministry of Environment	6794079
Mohamed Abdulahi	Ministry of Women	7785156
Kafi Nidam	Ministry of Environment	7580305
Omar Osman	PSAWEN	