



WASAARADDA DEEGAANKA & ISBEDDELKA CIMILADA
Ministry Of Environment & Climate Change
وزارة البيئة والتغير المناخي

CONCEPT NOTE

— Extract from —

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change

STRATEGIC PLAN
2023-2028



CONTACTS

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**Concept Note:
Ensure Biodiversity Conservation, Ecosystem Health and Sustainable Use of its Genetic Resources.
Submitted to:**

I. Background and Problems Statement

Loss of biodiversity, wildlife, and forestry due to habitat degradation, climate change and illegal trade on wildlife, and charcoal.

Despite its aridity, Somalia is part of Horn of Africa biodiversity hotspots, and it accommodates over 5000 plant species and 1332 animal species (NBSAP, 2016). However, biodiversity and wildlife flora and fauna in Somalia faces significant challenges, as highlighted in the Somalia National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Analysis of the current context reveals various aspects of concern regarding biodiversity, threats, and drivers of change. Somalia boasts diverse ecosystems, including terrestrial, freshwater, and marine habitats, which support a wide range of flora and fauna. These ecosystems and species face threats such as habitat destruction, overexploitation, pollution, and climate change. The drivers of biodiversity degradation in Somalia include unsustainable land use practices, illegal hunting and trade of wildlife, inadequate waste management, and the impact of climate change on sensitive ecosystems. These threats and drivers contribute to the loss of species and habitats, leading to biodiversity decline. The country's forests cover is approximately 12.5% - mostly classified as low-density woodland (WB, 2020). For the past 30 years the terrestrial and marine ecosystems of Somalia have been threatened by continuous deforestation, desertification, degradation and habitat fragmentation, with far-reaching ecological, economic and social consequences. In most areas, the country's woodlands have turned into scrub and the ground vegetation has disappeared. According to the World Bank (2020) (Somalia Country Environmental Analysis) approximately 146, 000 sq. km or 23% of the total land area of Somalia is degraded, and 220, 000 hectares of coastal mangrove forests are severely degraded. The anthropogenic pressures on forests and other woodlands increasingly caused ecosystem regime shifts that led to increased social vulnerability and weaken the health systems. The deforestation and vegetation cover changes are the results of multiple drivers such as overgrazing, drought, tree cutting for fuel wood and charcoal production, poverty, conflicts, and limited protection and management interventions. This has ultimately affected the agricultural productivity, food security and ecosystem integrity. The anthropogenic pressures on forests and other vegetation are coupled with the effects of climate hazards.

Previous interventions to address these challenges were very limited due to multiple challenges. Gaps persist in adequately understanding and addressing the drivers of biodiversity degradation, integrating biodiversity concerns into broader development agendas, and enforcing regulations for wildlife conservation. Policy formulation and implementation related to biodiversity and wildlife conservation require further attention. To respond to these challenges, the current strategic plan outlines several interventions. These include biodiversity inventories and creation of biodiversity database, strengthening measures to safeguard ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity through the establishment of reserved areas and protected areas both terrestrial and marine ecosystems. It emphasizes understanding the drivers of biodiversity degradation and adopting response measures within the green sector and broader development agendas. Policy formulation and implementation are prioritized, along with efforts to reduce direct pressures on biodiversity and promote conservation and sustainable use. Community awareness to change human behaviors and enforcement of regulations are also crucial components of the strategic plan. These interventions aim to protect and restore Somalia's biodiversity and promote sustainable wildlife conservation.

II. Strategic Objectives/Interventions

- a. Enhance institutional capacity
- b. Create national biodiversity database
- c. Promote germplasm conservation to safeguard species and its genetic material
- d. Establish and manage terrestrial and marine protected areas
- e. Establish sustainable forest management system
- f. Promote ecosystem and biodiversity restoration, and rehabilitation of degraded lands.

III. Key Activities

- a. Construct National Biodiversity, Forestry and Wildlife Agency Center
- b. Develop training syllabus, field handbooks, and organize training courses
- c. Conduct National Biodiversity Inventory and create digital database
- d. Establishment of 5 Seed Orchards, 5 forest trial centers, 5 seed labs and seed storage systems
- e. Creation of new marine and terrestrial protected areas
- f. Develop Forest development Programme and Forest Master Plan
- g. 146 000 sq. km of degraded land rehabilitated/reforested and 220,000 ha of degraded coastal mangrove forest restored and managed.

IV. Annual Activity Tentative Based Budget

Strategic Interventions	Description of Key Activities	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Planned Targets and Indicative Budget (USD)													
			2023/24		2024/25		2025/26		2026/27		2027/28		Total Cost (USD)			
			Target	Cost	Target	Cost	Target	Cost	Target	Cost	Target	Cost	Target	Cost	Target	Cost
Key Priority Area: Biodiversity, Wildlife and Forestry Conservation			Outcome: Conservation of wildlife, forestry and marine resources promoted													
Strategic Objective: Ensure biodiversity conservation, ecosystem health and sustainable use of its genetic resources			Strategic Objective: Ensure biodiversity conservation, ecosystem health and sustainable use of its genetic resources													
Enhance institutional capacity	Construct National Biodiversity, Forestry and Wildlife Agency Center	An Agency in place	1	5,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Promote germplasm conservation to safeguard species and its genetic material	Develop training syllabus, field handbooks, and organize training courses	% staff trained	-	-	25%	300,000	25%	300,000	25%	300,000	25%	150,000	25%	150,000	25%	900,000
Create national biodiversity database	Conduct National Biodiversity Inventory and create digital database	No. of genera and species recorded	-	-	1	500,000	-	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500,000
Promote germplasm conservation to safeguard species and its genetic material	Establishment of 5 Seed Orchards, 5 forest trial centers, 5 seed labs and seed storage systems	No. of seed orchards, seed labs and seed stores established	5%	200,000	50%	5,000,000	15%	2,000,000	15%	2,000,000	15%	2,000,000	15%	2,000,000	15%	11,200,000
Establish and manage terrestrial and marine protected areas	Creation of new marine and terrestrial protected areas	No. of protected areas created	5%	100,000	25%	500,000	25%	500,000	25%	500,000	25%	500,000	20%	400,000	20%	1,500,000
Establish sustainable forest management system	Develop Forest Programme and Forest Master Plan	Forest programme and master plan developed	-	-	100%	300,000	-	300,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300,000
Promote ecosystem and biodiversity restoration, and rehabilitation of degraded lands	146 000 sq. km of degraded land rehabilitated/reforested and 220,000 ha of degraded coastal mangrove forest restored and managed	No. of ha rehabilitated; no ha of forest restored	-	-	25%	1,000,000	25%	1,000,000	25%	1,000,000	25%	1,000,000	25%	1,000,000	25%	4,000,000
Total				5,300,000		7,100,000		3,800,000		3,650,000		3,550,000		23,400,000		23,400,000