



Programme for Sustainable Charcoal Reduction and Alternative Livelihoods (PROSCAL)

A Joint Programme between the Federal Government of Somalia and United Nations that seeks international cooperation to stop the illegal export of charcoal from Somalia

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ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

In 2012, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 2036, which banned the export and import of charcoal from Somalia. PROSCAL was formed with the aim of coordinating international cooperation to support and implement the ban. The establishment of PROSCAL was the result of a direct request by Somalia's Transitional Federal Government seeking support to reduce environmental destruction from rampant charcoal production and minimize the risks of local conflict arising from the trade.

PROSCAL is an interagency programme implemented by the Federal Republic of Somalia, in collaboration with UN Environment Programme, UNDP and FAO and is funded by the European Union, and the Swedish and Italian governments.

It has five main objectives:

- 1) To mobilize key stakeholders in the region and build institutional capacities among government entities across Somalia for effective monitoring and enforcement of the charcoal trade ban, energy security and natural resources management;
- 2) To support the development of alternative energy resources;
- 3) To facilitate a transition towards livelihood options that are sustainable, reliable and more profitable than charcoal production;
- 4) To begin reforestation and afforestation throughout the country to rehabilitate degraded land;
- 5) To build Regional Economic Partnerships to curb the unsustainable use, trade in, and production of charcoal in Somalia.

The programme envisages a comprehensive response strategy to support the Security Council's Resolution. In implementing

its mandate, PROSCAL builds upon successful projects executed by UN agencies to support the ban and uses the UN Joint Programming modality to harmonize approaches and maximize synergies.

Building on existing collaboration efforts of partner organisations and governments, the programme emphasizes joint work plans, monitoring and evaluation of activities, and offers a forum for policy harmonization between national governments on activities related to the charcoal trade ban in the region.

CHARCOAL TRADE CHALLENGES IN SOMALIA

It is crucial to understand the context of charcoal production in Somalia in order to develop an appropriate response strategy. There are a multitude of complex issues surrounding the production of charcoal, which leads to irreversible



We need a holistic response to address the issues of charcoal in Somalia. Both the demand and supply side have to be tackled. To do this we need cooperation to implement the UN Security Council Resolution and ensure the environmental, economic and human losses that happen because of illegal charcoal trade are curbed.



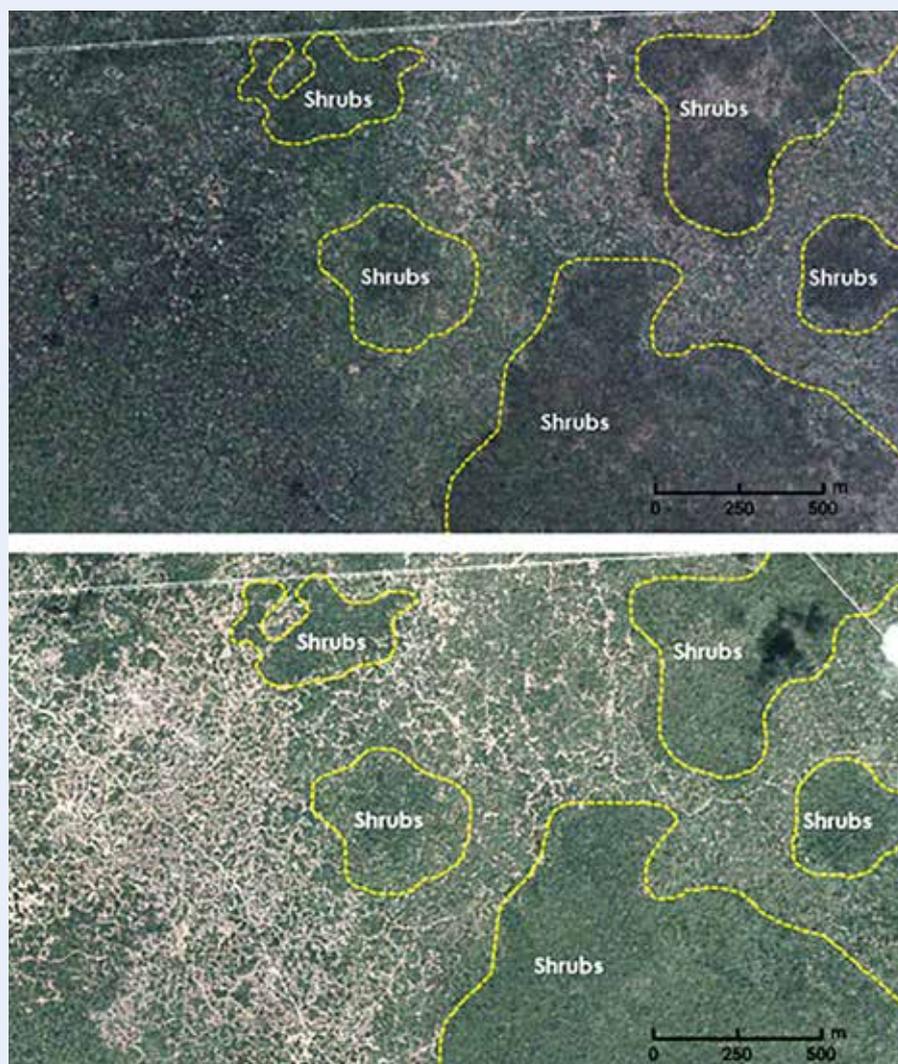
Mahdi Mohamed Guled
Deputy Prime Minister of Somalia
Conference on Charcoal in Mogadishu

environmental degradation, perpetual conflicts and dependence on short-term income from an unsustainable livelihood option.

The detrimental impact of charcoal production and trade in Somalia can be grouped into three main areas.

Environmental Unsustainability:

- Deforestation and land degradation are the most common challenges: Very High Resolution (VHR) satellite imagery (as seen in Figure i) taken from a PROSCAL study conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UNFAO) indicated that 8 million trees were felled, which translates to one tree cut down every 30 seconds between 2011 and 2017. Note that figures reported in the UNFAO study are conservative estimates and that only a portion (about 37,000 km²) of the charcoal production area was covered by this study.
- The tree species mainly used for charcoal production in Somalia, *Acacia and Commiphora*, is on the Red List of Threatened Species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. One species used, *Acacia bussei*, is a very slow-growing species and can take over 100 years to mature.
- Tree loss is associated with a cycle of negative environmental consequences: lower rainfall, soil erosion, biodiversity loss and land degradation.
- Over-exploitation of forest and rangeland resources causes frequent flash floods in the north-east and north-west regions leading to the formation of deep gullies, which affect soil productivity and restrict land use.
- A side effect of deforestation is the increased silt deposits in rivers, given that soil, without tree cover,



Monitoring charcoal production sites by VHR satellite imagery. The example above shows the impact of deforestation for charcoal production in Jilib District. In seven years 40% of the total area (about 450 ha) had been cleared. It is interesting to highlight the selective deforestation carried out, as areas covered by shrub land have not been affected by charcoal production, for obvious reasons (poor productivity). © DigitalGlobe



is easily washed away by flash floods. Increased siltation leads to shallower rivers which are more prone to flooding.

- The drought conditions in 2017 were exacerbated by deforestation as a result of tree felling. Millions of Somalis and their livestock were affected.
- According to the study, if the current rate of deforestation continues, tree cover will vanish in the next 40 years.
- Not only do overused forest and rangeland resources reduce the carrying capacity of pastoral systems, they also threaten medium- to long-term sustainability of the entire livestock economy.

Socio-Economic Challenges:

- Charcoal is one of the key commodities exported from Kismayo, Somalia's most southerly port by Al-Shabaab. As is the case with other commodities smuggled overland from Al-Shabaab-controlled areas to neighboring countries, the maritime charcoal trade ultimately benefits armed insurgencies.
- The cycle of poverty is exacerbated by local populations' dependency on charcoal as a primary source of income. Charcoal production fuels land tenure disputes and interclan fighting, and the resulting resource depletion is a key factor driving the recruitment of marginalized youth by militia groups.

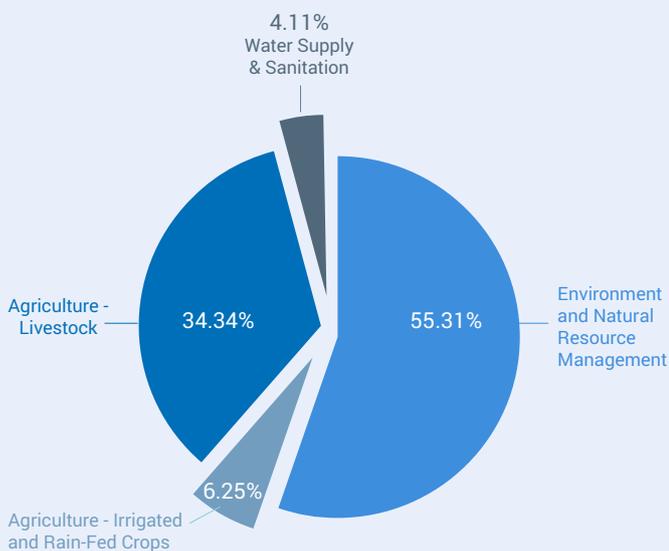


Lack of pasture for animals causes death through starvation.

- Alongside this, for every 25 kg of charcoal purchased from charcoal wholesalers in Somalia, retailers are paid only USD 1. These retailers are likely to be women, which means there is gender disparity in vulnerability in terms of economic opportunities and income access.
- Unsustainable charcoal trade pressures lead to gradual land degradation and desertification. Lack of water and feeding capacity for animal populations threatens medium-to-long-term sustainability of pastoral systems.

In addition, recurrent drought conditions directly impact various sectors of the environment and natural resource management as follows:

- Pastoralist and small farmers are most vulnerable
- They lack access to economic safety nets when crops fail, and livestock die
- Frequent droughts are making it harder to recover between shocks, increasing vulnerability
- Rainfall is expected to be more erratic



Pie Chart indicating damages by sector

Political Instability Challenges:

- Increased loss of natural resources in Somalia is a major contributing factor to the severity of humanitarian crises and conflict at national and regional level. The lack of economic safety nets triggers mass migration in most cases to cities in search of jobs. In severe cases, mass migration is also observed in the case of civilians migrating to other regional areas as climate refugees, forced off their land due to drought (UNHCR Report, 2017).



- The few available rangelands are claimed by community clans and not individuals. Furthermore, land conflicts in a pastoral setting are usually the result of power struggles between clans. In cases where one clan gains the upper hand, neighbouring clans can be pushed out of prime rangeland and lose access to their wells and other valuable natural resources.
- Political challenges and disputes lead to issues around ownership and use of natural resources. Militia groups exploit this lack of clarity on resource ownership to engage in extortion and profit from the charcoal value chain.

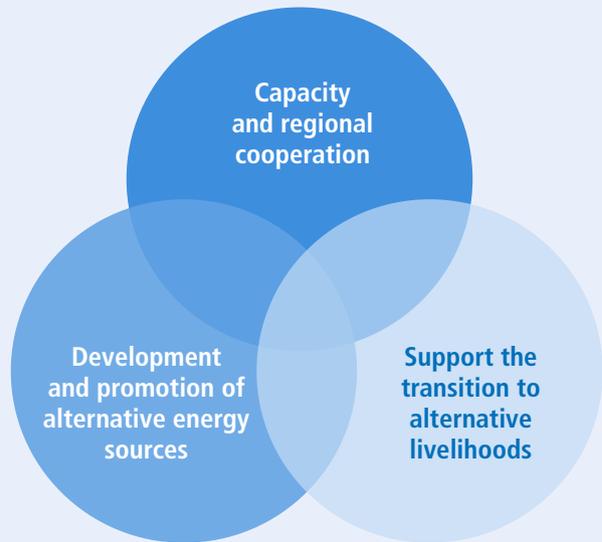
Civil war and the collapse of the state accelerated the struggle for land. Title deeds and other traditional land allocation mechanisms were replaced by semi-automatic weapons for appropriating land from weaker groups (UNDP Human Development Report, 1998).

WHAT THE PROGRAMME IS DOING

The programme works to address these issues and to reduce charcoal production and trade across three programme components.

- Capacity building and regional cooperation
- Development and promotion of alternative livelihoods; and
- Supporting the shift to alternative livelihoods for beneficiaries of the charcoal value chain

The establishment and expansion of partnerships throughout the implementation period is critical to the success of the programme. Momentum built through partnership formation will facilitate the effective enforcement of the Security Council Ban, the sharing of best practices, technology diffusion, and transition to alternative sources of livelihood over a longer timeframe.



Partnership and cooperation

The Joint Programme works in partnership and in consultation with key stakeholders including, government institutions in Somalia, regional and Gulf State governments and institutions, heads of diplomatic missions, multilateral and bilateral donors, Somali local communities, civil society organizations, the private sector, UN agencies, research and academic institutions, to monitor both the demand and supply side of the charcoal value chain.

This extensive consultative approach ensures that the resultant strategy/approach is appropriate given the multi-faceted challenges linked to the unsustainable production and use of charcoal in Somalia.



UN Environment and its partners are supporting the Government of Somalia to develop sound policy frameworks to support the ban and find alternatives to charcoal.



Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo,
UN Environment
Regional Director for Africa

For further information on PROSCAL please also see:

- The Programme Initiation Phase (<https://bit.ly/2E9NurR>)
- PROSCAL Technical Report (<https://bit.ly/2tzrW35>)
- UN in Somalia Workshop (<https://bit.ly/2H25TtU>)

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