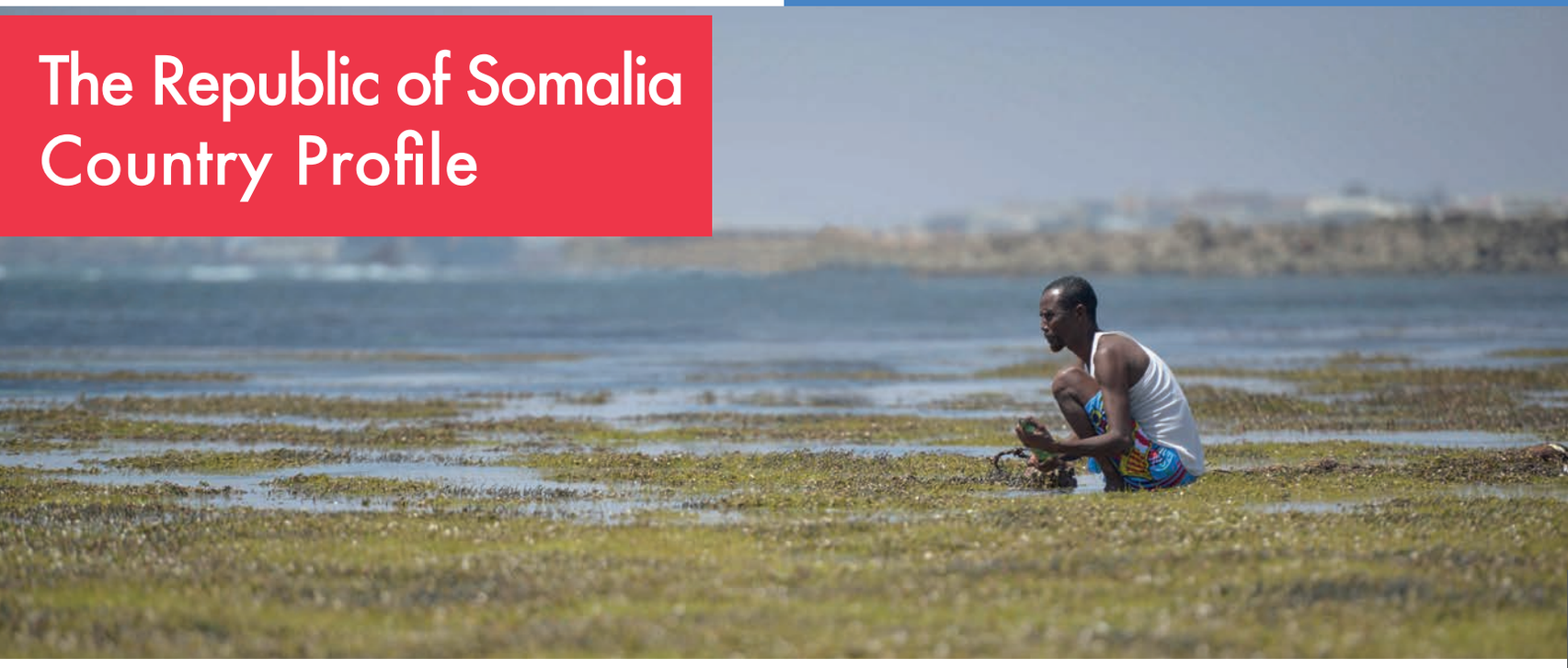
The Republic of Somalia Country Profile



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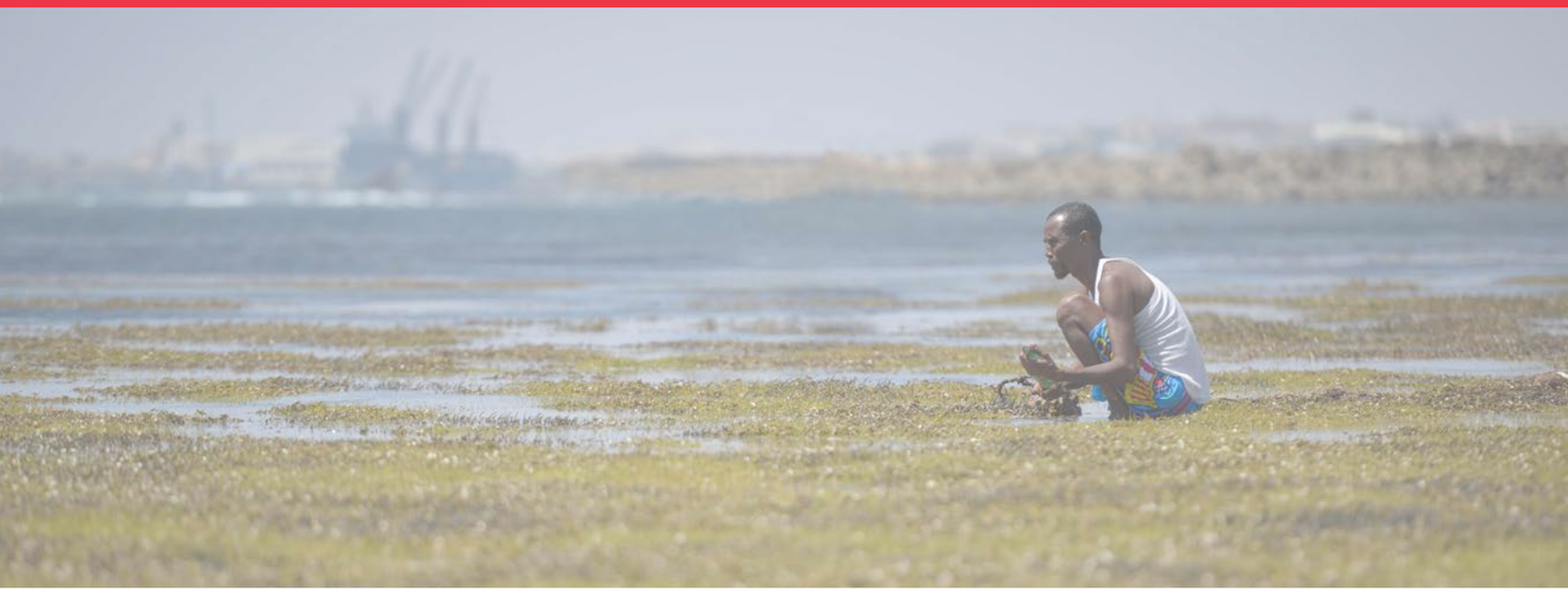

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The Republic of Somalia

Key country indicators

Location

The Republic of Somalia is located at a geographical region referred to as the horn of Africa. It borders Kenya to the southwest, the Gulf of Aden to the North, Ethiopia to the west and Indian Ocean to the East. Its strategic geographical position makes Somalia have the longest coastline in mainland Africa. In the past, this long coastline was of essential commercial importance in that it connected the Indian Ocean, Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea (Dalton Yasmin, 2019).

Population	10,800,000
GDP US $ (billion)	5.9
GNI	
Total land area	627,000 km^2
Length of coastline	2,470 km
Exclusive Economic Zone	1,165,500 km^2
Continental shelf	km^2
Mangrove	48 km^2
Coral reef	710 km^2
Marine protected area	18% of territorial water

Source: (World Bank, 2017)

Somalia's terrain is one of plateau and plains. The North is characterized by mountain ranges lying at a distance from the gulf. Rainfall is sparse in Somalia and the temperatures are hot throughout the year. Despite the harshness of this arid environment, majority of Somalians are nomads, with few engaging in agriculture in areas with moderate rainfall.

Marine resources

Somalia's maritime plain ranges from a 12 km width in the west to 2 km in the east. The Northern coastal line stretches to about 1000 km from Cape Guardafui to Djibout. The eastern coast stretches to about 2000 km along the Indian Ocean from Kenya to Ras Asir. The total coastline registers about 3,333 km, making it the longest in mainland Africa (Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources, 2016). The South western has two permanent rivers namely the Juba and Shabeelle which meet the coastal zone that extends from the Kenyan Border to the Mudug Plain. Juba descends into the Indian Ocean and Sheba reaches the sea near Marka.

Ecosystem management and conservation

The challenge

Somalia's vast marine and coastal ecosystem supports mangroves, coral reefs, and seagrasses that hold opportunities for coastal communities, as long as they are managed sustainably. The fisheries supported by these ecosystems are important contributors to food security, local livelihoods and the national economy. However, they are under threat from the extreme effects of climate change such as flash floods and drought and other human development activities such as deforestation.

The situation

Somalia depends on forestry, agriculture, mineral and fisheries to sustain her economy. These sectors have been adversely affected by the effect of climate change, droughts, deforestation and flash floods. Somalia's marine ecosystem faces daily stress, which are human-induced through overexploitation and illicit business such as unsustainable charcoal production and consumption. Other inherent constraints include the poor coastal management strategy and limited legitimacy in managing the marine ecosystem.

Coastal marine ecosystems

Coastal and marine biodiversity including sea birds, mammals, fish and invertebrate life supported by the mangroves, sea grass beds, coral reefs and other marine habitats are important part of the coastal economy. They support tourism, fishing, medicinal and other industries. However they are under threat from anthropogenic disturbances such as pollutants, climate change and physical damage from ships among others.

Coral reefs support marine animals by providing food and shelter. They are also a source of medicine and provide construction material to man. Both the hard and soft coral reef exist in Somalia. Some fringing reefs are located between 0.5 and 1.5 kilometres towards the Kenyan border, near Kismayo (Rod Dalm et al, 1998). They grow in warm and shallow waters where temperatures are between 21 and 30^{0}C. Any sudden changes in temperature because of climate change are likely to affect their growth. Coral reefs are commonly off the coast of Africa and in the Red Sea, where Somalia is located. The coral reefs found along the Somalia coast are a rare type not found anywhere in the world (Qasim Farah, 2016). The cold upwelling off Somalia's northern coast affects the growth of coral reef.

The Constraints

Deforestation

A key driver of deforestation is the demand for biomass for energy. This is fuelled by the unaffordably high price of electricity. Electricity in Somalia ranges from US $0.8-1.2 per kWh compared to Kenya at US $0.16 and Ethiopia at US $0.03. Data from 2015, indicates that 80-90 per cent of the population relies on traditional biomass fuels, wood and charcoal, and the annual consumption of charcoal is estimated at around 4 million tons per annum (FGS, 2019).

Land degradation

Deforestation leads to land degradation in countryside impacting the micro-climate and other resources such as rivers and lakes; and along the coastal areas leads to siltation of marine areas. Construction of urban areas along the coast also comes with impacts from human activities including disposal of solid wastes and sewage which if not handled well can lead to pollution of the coastal areas and marine waters. Land degradation can also lead to desertification in drylands if not mitigated. Severe droughts and flash floods are the results of declining vegetation cover and topsoil erosion over time.

The opportunity

Capacity building and partnership

The Somali National Development Plan proposes capacity building and training as a way to protecting the marine environment and improving the enforcement of marine regulations. It supports skills development of 30 per cent of staff from the Federal Government and promotes the co-management of marine ecosystem by communities and government through partnerships.

Target 14.2: Protect and restore ecosystems

UN definition: By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans

Status: The proportion of the national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches is NO DATA

Source: (UN Stats 2019)

Improving the legal and policy framework for natural resources management

In terms of the electricity sector, the National Development Plan plans to provide leadership in this sector through the implementation of a Power Master Plan which outlines strategies to increase energy production, increase the supply of renewable energy, and for government to establish regulatory authorities and a legislative framework to improve the market efficiency. These strategies will help to reduce the pressures on the countries forests.

A Water Management Master Plan is proposed to restore and rehabilitate watersheds so as to mitigate the impact of extreme cycles of rainfall, floods and drought.

Although the marine protected area is estimated at 0.0 of the territorial water, the Fisheries Law is very progressive and elaborate in regards to protection of the living marine. The Law prohibits the fishing of endangered aquatic species, and collection or destruction of the coral reefs and mangroves trees. It also makes it an offence for vessels to dump nuclear or industrial wastes in Somali waters. It provides for fisheries management and the protection of the living marine resources.

Fisheries

The challenge

The government is putting great effort into reviving the traditional economic sectors, including agriculture, livestock and fishing. According to the National Development Plan (2017-2019), fisheries are the third largest exports in Somalia and with the large fisheries resource, extensive coastline and proximity to large markets within and outside Somalia, the government believes it is possible to reach an estimated annual growth target of between 3 and 5 per cent. However, poor management of the fisheries sector, illegal fishing and maritime crime hinder the redevelopment of the sector. The impact is significant, for instance it is estimated that Somalia is currently losing over US $300 million dollars every year to illegal fishing (FGS, 2017).

The situation

The fish economy

Fisheries constitute the third largest exports in Somalia. The total value of the country's domestic fisheries, after value is added through the supply chain is US $135 million per year. Landings at present are estimated at 15,000 to 20,000 MT a year. Fisheries employ some 30,000persons full time

and 60,000 part-time workers in the form of traders, processors, and gear and vessel manufacturers. Stimulate a vibrant economic sector, with particular focus on agriculture, livestock and fishing – we hope to achieve a stable growth of 3 -5 per cent annually.

The NDP purposes to increase by 2 per cent, the revenue in fisheries collection by 2019 (FGS, 2017). The upshot will be increased employment opportunities and knock on effects such as efforts to reduce post-harvest losses and improve distribution support facilities.

Marine resources

Several marine features characterize Somalia as a large fisheries resource country. The 3,000 km long coastline, the narrow continental shelf of between 6-30 km with areas between Ras Asir and Ras Mabber widening to 60 km; and the northeast upwelling generated by the south-west monsoon all combine to create a favourable and productive fisheries (FGS, 2017).

Fishing activity is categorised into the industrial and the local artisanal sector. The former targets the migratory tuna species by national deep water vessels and foreign vessels. The latter, largely carried out within 12 to 15 nm from the coast, is mainly in-shore fishing using small motorized and non-motorized fishing boats.

However, there is a dearth of accurate and up-to-date fish catch and landing data which threatens the sustainable management and development of the sector as a whole. Although the current state of the stocks are unknown, and catch reports are unreliable, it is estimated that by 1987, the volumes of tuna and tuna-like species alone was between 120 and 200 metric tons. Between 1997 and 2006, the volumes of artisanal fish caught was about 32,000 metric tons valued at about US $45 million (FGS, 2017). Recent data shows that in 2016, the volume of fish catch landed for all commercial, industrial, recreational and subsistence purposes was 30,000 metric tons (World Bank, 2019). It is difficult to plan for sustainability against such an information

Table 1: Volume and value of fish caught by the artisanal fleet in Somalia

Specie	Value per ton (US $)	Annual landing (Metric tons)	Total annual value US $
		(Av 1997-2006)	
Albacore	2,516	90	263,354
Yellowfin tuna	2,333	2,168	5,707,851
Swordfish	2,639	393	1,245,157
Mixed Group	1,051	26,413	27,770,359
Skipjack tuna	1,035	1,417	1,471,568
Bigeye tuna	1,485	2,913	5,044,167
Tropical lobster	9,959	453	4,390,080
Total	**1,416**	**32,419**	**45,892,437**

Source: Eleventh Schedule: Wildlife Conservation and Management Act, No. 47 of 2013

Food security

In Somalia, over 1 million people face food insecurity. The fisheries sector has great potential in helping Somalia achieve food security. Somali's fish consumption levels are very low – in 2016, the food balance sheet indicated that 2.2 kg of fish is consumed per person per year compared to 9.9 kg per person per year for Africa (FAO, 2019). As such the country is failing to benefit from the contributions that fisheries and aquaculture can make towards sustainable food security and income.

The constraints

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU)

Globally, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) is said to be valued at between US $10-23 billion per annum and is sometimes associated with other crimes (FAO, 2020). Indeed, the lack of regulation, weak management regime and unstable political situation in Somalia are fertile ground for IUU fishing to thrive. IUU has intensified marine insecurity and unsustainability in Somalia. Networks of illegal fishers and poachers focus on the EEZ, targeting the pelagic fish, lobsters, sea lions and turtles.

The impacts of IUU may be seen in overfishing with negatives impacts on the fish stock and food security. The overexploitation of Somalia's EEZ, subsequent low-income generation and strict clamp down by police on trawlers pushed some into marine tourism, agriculture and even piracy, especially after 2006.

IUU also comes with additional threats of the dumping of oil and toxic waste into the ocean especially when illegal vessels are under threat (FGS, 2017). Addressing this issue is of paramount importance for the sustainability of the fisheries resource and marine ecosystem.

Lack of fisheries information to support policy

There is limited accurate and up-to-date catch and landing data in Somalia, which is a major challenge to be overcome in the management and development of the sector as a whole. Although

the current state of the stocks are unknown, and catch reports are unreliable, the seasonal abundance of tuna and tuna-like species is estimated at between 120 000 and 200 000 tons (as of 1987).The long-term sustainable development, and reduction in IUU fishing is of significant importance to the national economy but can only be adequately tackled against a backdrop of reliable information.

Somalia has recently become a member of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, which is responsible for the management of regional tuna

Gender discrimination

There is much gender segregation in this sector with men primarily the ones involved in main fishing activities and the women relegated to the secondary jobs such as fish processing and marketing. Furthermore, the existing male dominance culture suffocates girls and women thus limiting their contribution to the marine economy. Most women are largely illiterate. The national adult literacy rate is 50 per cent with literacy higher for men than for women (FGS, 2019). Including women more prominently in the fisheries sector is crucial for strengthening food security and nutrition among the Somali population and generating employment in the sector. Generating employment in the fisheries sector is key, especially for women. Employment rates are particularly low for women, with the 2012 Human Development Report indicating that unemployment amongst Somali women is at 75 per cent. The National Development Plan commits to promote social justice and ends all forms of gender discrimination in all the sectors including the marine sector (FGS, 2017) (FGS, 2019).

Target 14.4: Conserve coastal and marine areas

UN definition: By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and. unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in. order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum

Status:

- Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable level – No data
- Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing – 3 (on a scale of 1 lowest to 5 highest)

Source: (UN Stats 2019)

The opportunity

Policy, institutional and legal framework

The Somali Fisheries Development Framework 2018-2020 provides the framework for the management of the sector. The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources aims to enhance fisheries and marine resources sector by creating an enabling environment for sustainable development of the fishing economy without jeopardizing the fishing ecosystem and the coastal communities. Its core functions as set out under the Fisheries Law include:

- Supporting the development of coastal communities
- Promoting the growth of the Blue Ocean Economy

- Undertaking research necessary for decision making
- Establishing regulations and policies regarding fisheries development
- Promoting food security through fisheries

Improving fisheries management: IUU, pollution and information provision

The National Development Plan target is to reduce IUU fishing by 30 per cent from the 2016 baseline (FGS, 2017). IUU trawlers have been and still are operating close to the coast, on the narrow Somali continental shelf, most probably damaging the ecosystem and directly competing with artisanal fishermen. The exact impacts that these vessels, their catch composition and quantities, are unknown. The establishment of a revenue sharing Federal Fisheries Authority (FFA), under the MFMR, is an important pre-requisite to addressing the IUU issue, together with the establishment of an operational Fisheries Monitoring Centre and development of sea patrol enforcement capacity for both inshore and offshore facilities to monitor fleets operating in the EEZ and enforce national and regional, such as IOTC, requirements. Vehicles and IT equipment are required for the collection and collation of fish landings and effort data, and the completion of the ongoing registration of all fishermen and fishing vessels, coupled with appropriate training of Federal and regional ministry staff. To assist with this work by the Ministry, and the needs for vocational/technical training within the fisheries sector, a national fisheries training college requires refurbishment and staffing, with funds for vocational and academic training in fisheries science, food hygiene, fisheries management and MCS (Monitoring, Control and Surveillance), and policy and planning

The Fisheries Law in Article 35 is very elaborate on water pollution. It forbids the deliberate dumping of wastes into fishing waters as these may affect the marine biodiversity, birds, environment and human wellbeing.

Article 5 of the Fisheries law also provides for sustainable fisheries management highlighting production and controlling the exploitation of marine resources by other states. Article 7 mandates the Ministry to prepare management plan and regulations for sustainable fisheries management.

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and other partnerships

The need to ensure better management of the highly migratory species within the Somalia waters, drove the country to join the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission in 2014. In 2018 the Interim Agreement on Revenue Sharing from licenses was signed. The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources has started issuing offshore fishing licenses for the exclusive exploitation of tuna and tuna-like species beyond 24 nautical miles from Somalia's coast (outside of the zone reserved for Somali fishermen). Revenues generated are reinvested to develop the domestic fishing sectors. The Ministry has since benefited from training in data collection and reporting and has also been working to develop a comprehensive catch monitoring system. For instance, Project Kalluun, a partnership with FAO, Secure Fisheries, City University and the Ministry of Fisheries is piloting fisheries data collection and community participation (Sheikheile, Glaser, Hassan, Farah, & Weheliye, 2018).

Gender equality

The National Development Plan 2020-2024 has a number of social development objectives designed to deal with the gender issues highlighted. Other policies and plans that address women and girls include the Somali Women's Charter, the National Gender Policy and the Social Protection Policy among others. Within the fisheries sector there are activities that are designed to include women alongside men such as in small boat-building projects.

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Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonisation and Institutional Reforms (SAPPHIRE)