

Somolia



Somalia the Impact of Climate Change

Algiers, 11-13 October 2011.

Introduction:

- Somalia has a population of 9 - 12 million and land area of about 638,000 square kilometers. It is bordered on the North-west by Republic of Djibouti, on the west by Ethiopia and on south by Kenya, on the north for over 1000 kilometers by the Gulf of Aden, and on the east for over 2000 kilometers by the Indian Ocean.

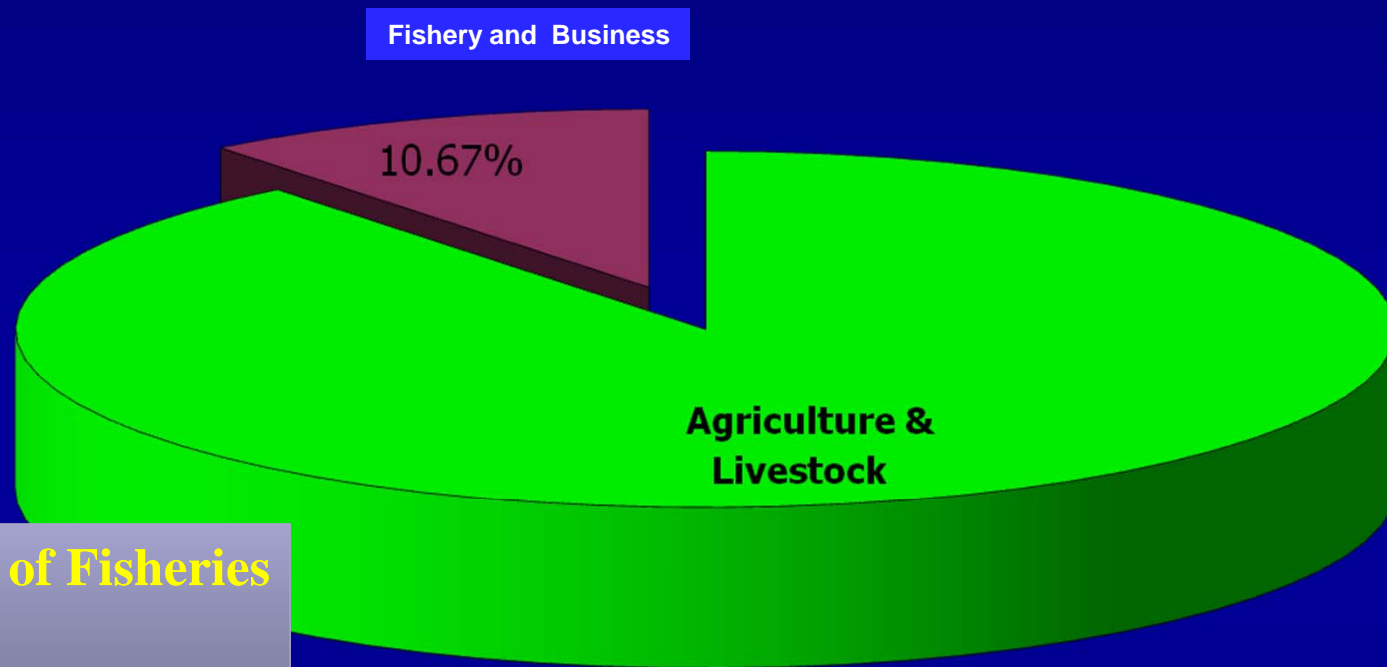


Economy

- The economy of the country is based on nomadic pastoralist which provides more than 90% of the national export. Subsistence farming is practiced on about 700,000 hectares of an estimated 8 million hectares of cultivable land. The only export crops are bananas & grapefruit. Somalia's net foreign trade position is heavily on deficit.




GDP of Fishery & Agriculture in Somalia



Ministry of Fisheries

220,000 Tons

Security

- Security significantly improved after the defeat of Alshabab extremist in the capital.
 - From January 2011, with help of AMISOM government troops gained more grounds from the insurgents.
 - August and September this year Mogadishu enjoyed peace and tranquillity, and government resumed public services to the gained territory.
 - Schools, hospitals re-opened, police stations working.
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Security

- Because of the newly found stability, jobs are on the rise, mainly business, relief and security work.
- The job creation will get even better once reconstruction rebuilding starts.
- Mogadishu international airport got busier, handling average 18 to 15 planes a day.
- Many countries fully opened back their embassies in Mogadishu.
- Many UN agencies back to operate in Mogadishu.



Political Improvement

- New road map signed by all Somali stake holders.
- Transition will end August 2012, new President and Speaker of parliament will be elected.
- Good governance is on practice.
- From January this year MP's and all other government employees including military getting paid their monthly salary on time.



International Leaders Visit

- Mogadishu honoured to host international leaders.
- Turkish PM H.E Tayib Erdogan.
- Djibouti President, HE Ismail O Geelle.
- UK Development Secretary, H.E. Andrew Michel.
- Swedish Development Secretary.
- Spanish Development Secretary.
- Danish Development Secretary, Netherlands Dev. Secretary, Iran Foreign Minister.
- High Delegation of Arab League, among them Prince Walid of KSA, Kuwait Government, Oman etc.



Climate Change

- Somalia has experienced dramatic environmental shifts following two decades of insecurity and chaos in the country. This crisis has led to an unsustainable use of the country's resources. Using charcoal for sole energy for cooking have contributed severe deforestation.



Climate change

- The cutting of trees and the making of charcoal have led to deforestation and desertification and, as a result, made the country more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The lives and livelihoods of Somalia farmers and of the local communities have been seriously affected by the impacts of the climate change.



continued

- More trees need to be planted to take in extra carbon dioxide; charcoal production must be managed and controlled; alternative sustainable energy sources need to be adopted.



continued

- Somalia continues to witness extreme weather events, changes in weather patterns, floods and droughts, and the vanishing of its biodiversity. Agricultural production, food security and access to water resources are being severely compromised by climate change.



Impact on health

- Human health is also impacted by the climate change. Malaria and other vector-borne diseases are now prevalent in areas that were not previously endemic. This is indicative of the fact that the impacts of climate change have altered the ecology of the vectors that transmit certain virulent pathogens that cause some of the most debilitating diseases in the country.



Coastal communities

- Somalia, coastal infrastructures are being affected. The displacement of people and the proliferation of piracy constitute a very serious dilemma for a country that is trying hard to bail itself out of the predicament that has lasted for a long time.



continued

- It is also believed, that toxic wastes are being dumped into the unprotected Somali territorial waters. Dead fish and closed barrels with chemical contents have been seen floating over the Somali territorial waters.
- The impacts of the climate change are already causing coastal erosion and possibly a rise in the level of Somalia seas. The lives and livelihoods of Somali fishermen along Somalia 3333-km coast are being seriously jeopardized.



Famine

- The United Nations declared a famine in the Bakool and Lower Shabelle regions of southern Somalia on July 20, thrusting a humanitarian crisis that has been deteriorating for months into the spotlight. There are many causes exacerbating the impact of this famine: endemic poverty, decades of violence, the lack of a viable governance structure, and poor land use practices.



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- While responses should take these elements into account, they must also consider another factor to ensure Somalia's long-term food security: the potential of climate change to exacerbate existing problems and aggravate future crises.



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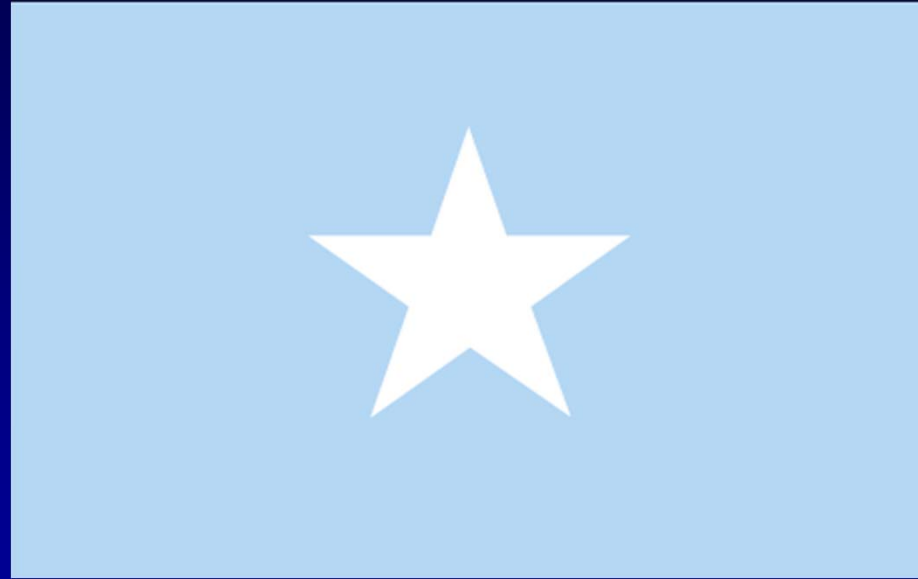
- In order to ensure Somalia's future food security, a shift must take place to acknowledge the impact that climate change will have on agriculture and livestock. The exact impact that climate change will have is uncertain given the available information. But the fundamental question isn't when climate change will impact Somalia, already happened. Under these circumstances, the sooner Somalis begin to adapt to an environment altered by climate change the better.



continued

- Unless the Arab and African countries act now to fight climate change and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), their countries will face dire consequences, including stunted development.





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