



Somalia's environmental hazard profile

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Somalia has experienced over two decades of political conflict. The toll on the nation has been devastating, which has caused the rise of pirates, climate change, and toxic waste dumping, forest destruction turning huge tracks of land into barren fields.

Much of the forestry was destroyed to satisfy the demand for charcoal inside and outside Somalia. Moreover, business elements imported expired food and medicines to benefit from the lack of rule of law and quality control. This has led to food poisoning and thousands of people falling ill. Doctors have been working in these conditions and discovering previously unknown human diseases every day. In addition, prohibited agrochemicals and other products harmful to humans and the environment have been recorded across the nation.

Organizations or functioning institutions that safeguard safe drinking water, healthy food and safety have not yet been put in place. Other Standards or regulations regarding Cities planning, Housing quality, Hazard control are yet to be put in practice nationwide. Water pollution, Air pollution, Marine pollution and Solid waste continue to affect large areas of the country.

Lack of Governmental Legislation, Policy, Strategy, Monitoring and Legal Framework as well as Institutional arrangement for nationwide Environmental Awareness are not yet functioning effectively. This nation needs long-term Environmental Rehabilitation in every sector as well as qualified environmentalist staff in order to reach Nationwide Environmental Rehabilitation recovery.

Somalia's fragility profile

A combination of social and cultural dynamics, politics, economics, and the condition of ecosystems affects how people in Somalia are born, grow, live, work and age.

Somalia's long-lasting civil strife, disorder and lack of a functioning government for more than twenty five years have contributed to the depressed state of environmental conditions and the implications for public health. The absence of appropriate government regulation and



legislative framework, enforcement and control over attainment and use of natural and environmental resources have not yet had significant impact in Somalia. A wide range of individuals and institutions in the private sector, Academic, Civil society and Government agencies may participate in the Policy process. The nation will appreciate and recognize their efforts and contributions to realize the important goals.

Somalia's geographical profile destruction

Somalia covers an area of 637,657 sq. km. Somalia has the longest coastline in Africa (3,333 km), and has an estimated population of 12.3 million. The country is hot, arid to semi-arid with a rainfall of between 50- 150 mm along the coast and up to 500 mm in the northern highlands. The land forms comprise flat plateaus and coastal plains. Highlands are only found to the north, where there are mist forests.

There are two permanent rivers – the Jubba and Shabelle River which are shared with Ethiopia. The remaining water courses are ephemeral, but important as water sources (wells), and for their relatively richer vegetation. Forests and woodlands cover about 23% of the country and are dominated by Acacia species.

There has been significant but localized, deforestation for agriculture, fuel wood, and charcoal. Trees are the most important terrestrial resource because of the goods they provide, particularly in dry times. With the longest coastline in Africa, the marine environment is rich due to nutrient upwelling which supplies important off-shore fisheries that are the subject of a lot of Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing (illegal fishing) by foreign vessels.