



Republic of Somaliland
8th High Level Aid Coordination Forum



Ministry of Environment and Rural Development

Land Reform Policy Development





Introduction of Land Tenure

Somaliland constitution states the land is owned by the government as always was in the previous Somali Governments and precolonial period.



Purpose on Developing Land Policy

Land policy will address all the immerging land conflicts and play important role on the different developmental interventions including the sustainable utilization of the land resources. Land policy will mitigate:

- Increasing environmental degradation (caused by overgrazing, deforestation, etc.) 70% of the communal rangeland in Somaliland is privately closed by individuals, this marginalized the livestock movement and increased the rangeland resource conflicts.
- Climate change, drought and water scarcity
- Increasing rural and urban land conflict
- Reassessment of land use priorities in line with National Development Plan (2012-2016)



Cont.



- Obstacles to investment due to insecurity of land tenure rights
- Lack of comprehensive land governance structure, capacity and framework (legal, administrative and policy)
- Historically overlapping land tenure systems (formal & customary) and claims
- Absence of coordinated vision and approach for cooperation between the various national stakeholders
- Lack of effective land administration systems



Achievements

1. Political will

- Somaliland Land Reform Conference in Burco (21-23 April 2015)
- The President of Somaliland H.E. Ahmed Mohamed Mohamoud issued **TWO Presidential Decrees** on land management including nomination of National Inter-ministerial Committee on Developing Draft National Land Policy
- Inter-ministerial Committee established (20 August 2015) consists of 12 ministries with setup structure and body.
- Land Task Force Coordination Body operational (made up of non-state actors working on land policy-related activities)
- Planned National Policy Conference by the end of 2015



Achievements Cont.

2. Contextual Understanding

- Grassroots and national consultation-based research completed on topics such as land management, use, conflict, natural resource management, etc. by various ministries and development agencies (2004-present)

3. Review of Policy, Institutional and Legal Environment

- Various analysis of land-related legal framework ongoing
- Mobilization of technical support for land policy development process underway



Achievements Cont.

4. Stakeholder engagement and empowerment

- Bottom-up approach to research, policy formulation and prioritization in the various land-related initiatives
- Training of communities on land policy process, negotiations and issues

5. Vision and Direction

- Inter-ministerial Committee-led development of Roadmap for Land Policy development



Challenges in Policy Development Process

- Balancing urgency to initiate land reform with the long-term nature of policy development)
- Coordination and harmonization of visions of the agencies (state and non state) supporting land policy process
- Low level of capacity and community awareness
- Repercussions of 20 years of unregulated land use – enclosures, settlements, commercialization of land, lack of government regulatory control, etc.
- Scarce and fragmented budgetary and aid allocations for land-related issues (need large-scale, long-term projects)—comprehensive financial support required
- Low level of capacity and awareness of vulnerable groups (women, minority, IDPs and other marginalized people) to engage in Policy dialogue



Partners in Land Policy Development Process

Direct Land Policy Development Support

- Academy for Peace and Development (APD)
- Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- Rift Valley Institute (RVI)

Complementary Land Policy Development Support

- PENHA
- Somaliland Pastoral Forum (SOLPAF)
- Candlelight
- Oxfam
- UN Habitat



Way Forward

- To develop a comprehensive land legal frame work
- Affective law enforcement
- Public awareness and education on the importance of the land legal frame work
- Land demarcation with suitable land use analysis
- Capacity building for the stakeholders involved in the land legal frame work
- To develop comprehensive coordination mechanism among the stakeholders involved in land legal frame work
- Consistent resource mobilization for the land management
- Empowerment of the National Land commission



Thank You