



Federal Government of Somalia and United Nations Joint Programme for Sustainable Charcoal Reduction and Alternative Livelihoods (PROSCAL)

Minutes of 4th Programme Steering Committee Meeting

20 May 2020, Virtual conference

Agenda Item 1 - Opening Remarks by the co-Chairs and Introduction of the Participants

The meeting was co-chaired by H. E. Hussein Mohamud Sheikh Hussein, Minister of Livestock, Forestry and Range, Federal Government of Somalia and Mr. Adam Abdelmoula, Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary General/Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (DSRSG/RC/HC).

H. E. Hussein Mohamud Sheikh Hussein, in his opening remarks, appreciated and congratulated Mr. Adam Abdelmoula for co-chairing of the PROSCAL Steering Committee meeting. He also, acknowledged and reiterated that “the Somali people and the government are thankful to the generosity and support of the EU, Italy, and Sweden” for their contributions to implement the Joint Programme. Equally, thanked the implementing partners (FAO, UNDP and UNEP) for their firm commitments to the successful implementation of the joint Programme on Charcoal. He stressed the need for additional resource mobilisation to fully achieve the overall Programme objectives since it is currently underfunded to support full-scale reforestation programme, awareness-raising, alternative energy, and alternative livelihoods. Highlighting the importance of the Programme, he said that despite this meeting coinciding in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic that has caused loss of many lives and devastated the global economy is a testament to the commitment of stakeholders to PROSCAL. He expressed government’s satisfaction with the outcome of the recently concluded PROSCAL Mid-term Review Report and pledged that his ministry will be fully committed to the implementation of recommendations of the evaluation. Articulating the relevance of Programme for Somalia, he stated that even though there has been a significant decrease in charcoal exportation from Somalia, the international demand is still prevalent, while the demand at the national level is mainly due to the lack of alternative energy sources for household use. This is because the urban population in Somalia is the primary consumers of Charcoal, and unless there is sustainable transitioning towards alternative sources of energy solutions to Charcoal use, this demand is likely to increase with growth in urban population as well as the revitalization of the national economy. He further highlighted that the production and use of Charcoal is detrimental to people's livelihood and their well-being. Highlighting the security matters around charcoal production and trade, the Minister mentioned that the revenues from Charcoal trade have benefited Al-Shabab and Affiliated Organisations as it brings huge illicit income to the groups. He emphasised that the Ministry of Livestock, Forestry, and Range, FGS, will have a joint work plan with the UN implementing partners, which will be aligned with the National Development Plan of FGS (NDP9) priorities, and the

recommendations from the mid-term review. This initiative will enhance the existing collaboration and efforts for PROSCAL between participating UN organizations and the Federal Government of Somalia. He further informed the participants on the recent developments including: 1) the major awareness-raising event held in Baidoa where the President of the South West State, H.E Abdiaziz Hassan Mohamed (Laftagareen) was the keynote speaker to emphasize an alternative energy solutions to charcoal use and community driven reforestation Programmes to minimise the adverse environmental impacts; 2) the Partnership summit in Nairobi hosted by the MoLFR and UNEP and attended by Gulf states and Ambassadors of Somalia's neighbouring countries. Somalia got the opportunity to update the dignitaries on the progress made on the charcoal ban and solicit full reinforcement on the ban of the Somalia Charcoal export; 3) the 22nd of the Commission of African Forestry and Wildlife Commission, and the 6th African Forestry and Wildlife week, which took place in Kruger National Park, South Africa, under the theme "Forests and Wildlife and Africa's diversity for shared prosperity and security; 4) the IGAD member states the inter-ministerial meeting of the IGAD member states in Djibouti that highlighted key challenges facing IGAD forest cover and ecological services, and the urgent need for endorsing the Forestry policy.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Adam Abdelmoula congratulated the Federal Government of Somalia for its leadership and commitment in curbing the illegal trade, unsustainable production and use of charcoal in Somalia. He expressed excitement that no charcoal export from Somalia was documented since August 2018 as reported by the panel experts on Somalia and confirmed by the program satellite mapping report. Tightened restrictions from gulf countries, increased pressure from Federal government of Somalia, regional coordination and engagement and increased awareness raising are attributed to the success in curbing the illegal charcoal export. The joint program has immensely contributed to the achievement of this milestone through the international conference on charcoal in May 2018 which helped in highlighting the importance strengthening partnerships, alliances and investment in stopping the trade and providing alternatives to charcoal. However, he cited that domestic production of charcoal is ongoing as confirmed by the very high-resolution satellite images produced by the program showing stockpiles in Kismayo and Buur-Gaabo. Also underlined that Alternative Energy and Alternative Livelihoods activities needs to be scaled up to reduce domestic production and consumption of charcoal by marketing mechanisms to offer huge potential in scaling up successful models in acceleration and diffusion of alternative energy as well as alternative livelihoods. He thanked Sweden, EU and Italy in providing funds to the Programme though its underfunded. In 2019, Sweden allocated an additional USD 1.62 million through the UN Multi-Partners Trust Fund (UN MPTF) to the programme and expect further support from donor partners to the Joint Programme. He likewise acknowledged the findings of the Mid-term Evaluation which were positive and set the direction for improvement. He further noted that program has made a number of major achievements including; finalization of charcoal policy, highlighting the issues of unsustainable Charcoal trade at regional/international level, undertaking evidence-based monitoring of impacts of Charcoal production, promoting women led businesses on alternative energy and providing alternative livelihoods to Charcoal Value Chain Beneficiaries. To sustain the positive achievements, he highlighted the following recommendations; 1) putting into action the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation including the revision of program strategy ; 2) the implementation of the national charcoal policy both at the national and sub-nation levels; 3) Capacity support to the federal and federal member states should continue for their greater engagement and leadership in implementation of the Programme, UN and the donor's commitment in this area remains at the

highest levels. He concluded his remarks by reminding the members of the Programme Steering Committee on their crucial role of supporting the implementation of the programme by giving policy direction and helping in taking coordinated actions.

The opening remarks made by the co-Chairs were followed by round of introduction of participants. (Agenda and List of Participants is attached as: Annex1: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UQ3B9Pmv-3vUWRPtb-hfV2h7B9RpA_Rj/view?usp=sharing).

Agenda Item 2– Update on the previous steering committee decisions points):

Mr. Abdulkani R Barrow, senior advisor to the Ministry of Livestock, Forestry and Range updated participants that the follow up actions of the 3rd Programme Steering Committee held on December 10, 2018 were mostly addressed apart from few that did not materialize including;

1) the initiation of a high-level political dialogue involving the Government leadership and SRSG for enforcement of ban on Charcoal export.

2) Government led delegation to Gulf States planned on the 17 to 25 February 2019 and establishment of a high-level contacts by the Ministry and UNEP in preparation of the meetings. Due to Gulf diplomatic crisis with FGS the delegation did not visit Gulf region. Instead MoLFR and UNEP hosted meeting among the FGS, & Gulf Countries Ambassadors in Nairobi, Kenya. The Minister of Livestock, Forestry and Range-FGS, and IGAD Ambassadors highlighted the environmental, security and Social-economic consequences of the Illegal charcoal export to GCC leading to commitment of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Iraq, Djibouti and Saudi Arabia enforced the charcoal ban.

Agenda Item 3 – presentation and Progress Updates on the Joint Programme -MoLFR, UNDP, FAO & UNEP.

Mr. Abdulkani, made presentation on Component 1: Capacity building and Regional Cooperation. As part of the updates, he informed that operation and technical support were provided to seven sector ministries including the federal Government Ministry of Livestock, Forestry and Range, Galmudug Ministry of Environment, Hirshabelle Ministry of Environmental protection Land and Sea, South West Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Puntland Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Climate Change and Somaliland Ministry of Environment and Rural Development. Two inter-ministerial coordination meetings and workshops around options of alternative energy solutions to charcoal use were organised. As per the Mid-term Review Report these meetings significantly contributed to the creation of the consensus conducive to the elaboration and validation of the charcoal policy and its implementation. Five small scale tree nurseries were set up - one in Mogadishu and four in Federal Member States (Galmudug, Hir-Shabelle, South West and Jubaland) to support greening campaigns and rehabilitation of degraded lands. Focal ministries from the federal member states for the Charcoal Programme are in charge of these nurseries.

On behalf of UN Environment, Mr. Abdirashid Ateeye, Project Officer, presented the progress under Component 1 activities. He said that a National Charcoal policy was developed, translated and validated. The Policy is available with the Ministry of Livestock, Forest and Range-FGS, and ready to be presented to the council of ministers for approval and adoption. Also, UN Environment collaborated with UNODC to curb illegal Charcoal trade. So far Charcoal and soil samples from Juba land were collected for forensic analysis and test and to catalogue Somali charcoal in general. He

further highlighted that in joint collaboration with FGS, Partnership meeting with ambassadors of Gulf and neighbouring countries was hosted by UN Environment in Nairobi. The meeting highlighted Illegal charcoal export to Gulf Countries leading to commitment from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Iraq and Djibouti to enforce the Charcoal ban. As consequences, and as per the 2019 Report of the UN Monitoring Group no charcoal has been shipped from Jubaland ports since August 2018. Likewise, Media training Workshop was organised for the Somali Journalists which was opened by the Minister of Livestock, Forestry and Range. The training of journalist has helped in bringing “Somalis own Voice” on unsustainable use of charcoal and strong messaging to reduce the charcoal consumption at the household level.

Mr. Ugo Leonardi, Remote Sensing Specialist, FAO SWALIM, presented Updated analysis of VHR satellite imagery to generate knowledge on the dynamics of charcoal production in South Somalia 2011 – 2019 that was recently completed. The initial study area measured about 37,000 sq. km. The extended area measures about 42,000 sq.km, adding over 5,000 sq.km to the previous analysis. The analysis on the results showed an Intensification of the production around Buur Gaabo & Kismayo and Intensive production still ongoing in the first half of 2019 with no significant stockpile changes since February 2019, and increased supply to the local markets as charcoal not exported mostly to GCC member countries. Close to USD. 400,000 budget was proposed to cover the analysis of the new proposed areas (42,000 sq.km). Also, a practical GIS/RS training on the methodological approach adopted to map the charcoal production site was performed by SWALIM team in Mogadishu to the technical staff of the Government Institutions including MoLFR-FGS, MoAI, MoET-Jubaland State, Banadir University and Somalia National University. Charcoal production field survey was conducted in selected villages in Badhaadhe, Kismayo and Afmadow. Field survey preceded by training to 6 Somalia professionals on methodology for collecting data on charcoal production, data collection concluded successfully. Charcoal Production in Jubaland, Somalia under preparation. 1st draft copy out and reviewed. Final report under finalization.

Mr. Hassan Abdirizak Ahmed, National Manager -PROSCAL, made a presentation on awareness raising and Alternative Energy Solutions to Charcoal Use. He presented that sensitization seminars/Workshops were organised to promote sustainable initiatives on the use of alternative energy solutions to Charcoal use. Key Somalia telecom companies, Televisions and radio stations were also engaged to send out broadcasts & mobile messages on environmental conservation and promotion of alternative energy sources reaching out to more than a million people (52% women). One Website/ anti-charcoal portal campaign developed by the Federal Ministry of Livestock, Forestry and Range (MoLFR) while websites of the environment ministries in Puntland & Somaliland were also upgraded. A total of 9 video documentaries were recorded on the sustainable charcoal use and alternative energy solutions to charcoal use while 20 Journalists trained on environmental media reporting to inform better the public on sustainable NRM. As part of the alternative energy solutions to charcoal use, 2400 HHs (95% women headed) in Somaliland and Puntland transitioned to the use of 44% subsidized Liquefied Petroleum Gas, another 2400 LPG sets have been procured for distribution in Galmudug, Hirshabelle, South West and Jubaland. Also, thermal water heating systems and LPG sets were installed at two public facilities (Hospital and orphanage) and 6 solar water heating systems were also installed at tea shops in Hargeisa to reduce charcoal consumption for heating and cooking. More so, 10 plumbers (3 women) trained on solar thermal water heating to support employment opportunities and availability of experts at the local market. Furthermore, more than 7,480 HHs in Puntland (95% women headed households) and 50 existing women retailers previously engaged in

Charcoal business have transitioned to energy efficient cooking stoves business. The new energy efficient cooking stoves will burn 50% less charcoal than traditional cooking stoves. 15 artisans (3 women) were trained on the production of energy cook stoves and provided with working apparatuses, 5 workstations/kilns established for sustainable production of fuel-efficient cook-stoves. Through the Construction of workstations and kilns, more than 160 persons including 48 women have benefited short term employment. Similarly, two innovative business ideas were given grants to produce “green charcoal” (biomass briquettes and charcoal from Prosopis).

Under Component 3: FAO has reached to a total of 4,950 (50% Women) beneficiaries through the distribution of vegetable harvesting crates, fodder seed and beekeeping items. A total of 255 lead farmers from the three districts were trained by the NGO implementing partners on utilization and value addition of the different assets distributed. These lead farmers subsequently trained all 4,950 beneficiaries at village level. The establishment of two tree nurseries in Gobweyn and Yontoy villages in Kismayo is at completion stage, while the training on tree nursery management to targeted communities delivered and a variety of tree seeds distributed to local farmers. Additional 2 tons of fodder seeds and 10 fodder processing machines were distributed by MoLFR, Jubaland to 200 farmers in Kismayu district procured from funds from different project (value-added activity to PROSCAL). The Ministry of Livestock and Forestry (MoLFR), Jubaland State was contracted by FAO to oversee the implementation of activities by the NGOs involved in above inputs distribution & training activities to effective and efficient delivery of assigned services by NGOs.

The presentation of updates was concluded with highlights on the issues and challenges facing the program including: 1) 70% shortfall of the Programme budget to support full-scale Reforestation Programme, capacity development of institutions and communities and acceptable coverage of CVCBs with alternative energy and livelihoods, and continuous monitoring of the Charcoal production and illegal export; 2) delayed activities that are undertaken remotely in rural locations under the Livelihoods Component due to Insecurity; 3) Insecurity hindering the Post-distribution monitoring assessments under livelihood component that are required to understand emerging issues from the interventions, lessons learnt and gaps.

(Presentations are attached as Annex II: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dQg69KGL-F-rJoPd6vcWCgPv0-Vi2bXN?usp=sharing>)

After the presentation, co-Chairs, welcomed the participants for comments.

As part of his comment, Mr. Guglielmo Giordano, Head of Italy Agency for Development Cooperation Office for Somalia, highlighted that there were many weaknesses on the programme planning & implementation in regard to the Mid-term review report. He also stressed that reduction on charcoal export was mainly due to UNODC intervention. Mr. Guglielmo said that awareness messages should strike peoples behaviours and send strong messages such as “cutting trees is cutting the future of our children”. He further emphasized that project lacked concrete baselines and SMART indicator at the very beginning to quantify the level of charcoal export and consumption, demonstrate the impacts on the awareness raising and alternative energy solutions to charcoal and livelihood options for the Charcoal value chain beneficiaries. For instance, it’s not clear on how many stoves were produced, how many were sold, how many were trained, where skills were utilized, and impacts of the trainings on their community and existence of a regular follow ups. Also, suggested to look into the possibility of capacitating the private and civil society sectors and in ability of MPTF distributing to Implementing

Partners, how this is possible and how can we further enhance the capacity of MPTF holders. He also asked for more intensive actions on the Gulf member countries engagement and that afforestation is more difficult in due to its aridity and a deal for Somalia to start these programmes with support from other countries. He similarly inquired details of the UNEP allocated budgets since it was included as an implementing agency recently. He concluded his remarks that no tangible reforestation activities were done or accomplished with the little resource allocations. Also, suggested that good synergy is possible with ongoing and future river basin management Programmes to face floods which are very well funded by several donors.

Mr. Kamau Waithaka, Programme Manager, Environment, Climate Change, Water and Energy, Embassy of Sweden, said that it was good to see the results of on ground activities. The sector remains a key pillar in the Sweden Country Strategy and that bigger programme on renewable energy will be launched latter this year. The Embassy is in discussion with UNDP on the realisation of a joint collaboration and synergy. He underscored that the Embassy will have a separate discussion with the MPTF donors on how to support the realisation of the overall programme.

Mr. Mohamed Haji, Programme Manager, Infrastructure and Natural Resources, EU Delegation for Somalia, emphasized on the importance of institutional capacity building as one key ways to re-align strategy of the program to deliver desired results. He also recommended continuous monthly or bi-monthly technical discussions to be constituted to emphasize on how to achieve the results of the activities that are yet to be implemented given that the project is ending soon. Mr. Mohamed stated that the sector remains relevant, and it is one of the sectors that will be considered in the next EU programming and probably have a flagship program on renewable energy. He underscored the element of sustainability in terms of institutional ownership, institutional support and implementation of activities needs to be enhanced.

In reactions to the above, Mr. Mohamed Omar, Director General, the Ministry of Livestock, Forest and Range, recapped that the MoLFR did deliver numerous awareness raining events, expansion of existing tree nurseries at federal and federal member states, and distribution of more than 83,000 seedlings across the federal member states despite the limited resources on the reforestation.

Mr. Abdulkani Barrow, Senior advisor to the MoLFR, alluded that awareness raising mainly targeted urban settings where key telecom, TV, and radio stations were engaged on the messaging of anti-charcoal awareness campaigns and alternative energy solutions to charcoal use. He also notified that the upcoming work-plan will focus on urban and rural settlements where the charcoal production is reported to be high and sending of high Government delegations to members of Gulf Countries to reinforce the ban of illegal charcoal export in Somalia.

Mr. Hassan Abdirizak stated that the solar trainings were aimed at promoting the use of renewable energy at public institutions such as hospitals to demonstrate can transition to clean energy by using LPG and solar for cooking and water heating and reduce charcoal consumption. He also said that rapid assessment on the diffusion and acceleration of efficient stoves and LPG can be undertaken to inform and guide better the remaining phase of the project implementation. Similarly elaborated that private sectors were engaged in the supply and distribution of alternative energy solutions to charcoal use and a lot can be learnt from similar engagements and collaboration. He likewise suggested innovative ideas such as the use of seed balls for reforestation, and innovation skills for clean cooking. He proposed that all the MTR recommendations and donors' concerns will be factored in the revision of

the planned Programme Strategy and there's an urgent need to reconvene soon to finalise the review process.

Mr. Abdirashid Ateeye, mentioned that UNEP has engaged with UNODC to discuss a joint strategy and responsive measures to curb illegal charcoal trade and exploring the possibility of sending a joint high-level delegation to the Gulf Countries. He cited that background checks on exploring ethanol for domestic cooking is being reviewed by UNEP and once finalised will be shared across the board.

Mr. Frank Turyatunga of UNEP acknowledged the donor's suggestions and decisions of the meeting. He further mentioned that UNEP is in discussion with Federal Government on setting profile and presence in Somalia and that they soon have an advisor who will be supporting the government and UN on environmental issues.

Mr. Andrew of FAO said that Donors and MTR recommendations is fully noted and will be applied to the latter in pending activities. Also, expansion of tree nurseries and construction of solar dam is ongoing as a means to accelerate the reforestation efforts and institutional service delivery.

Mr. Jocelyn, UNDP RR, said that the PROSCAL is really relevant in promoting Sustainable Natural Resource Management. He underscored that it's extremely important for respective Implementing partners and agencies to speed up the development of the 2020 AWP aligned with the Mid-term Evaluation recommendations and donors concerns not later than 30 June 2020.

Mr. Jonathan Brooks of FAO said that FAO will take the findings of the MTR very seriously and assured the reforestation activities will be completed and this workstream will be complemented with regional resources FAO is receiving for future continuity.

H.E. Hussein Mohamud Sheikh committed that MoLFR will participate the revision of the Programme Strategy and development of Joint Annual Workplan, with each UN agency, that is aligned to the recommendations of the Mid-term Review, National Development Plan (NDP9) and donors' suggestions in next couple of days.

Agenda Item 4-Presentation on resource mobilisation and allocations of new contribution from Sweden to the UN Multi-Partners Trust Fund (MPTF) for the Charcoal Programme.

PSC was presented that USD. 1.6 million were received from Sweden to the UN Multi-Partners Trust Fund (MPTF) for the Charcoal Programme. Minister Hussein suggested that the distribution of new allocation of 1.6 million from Sweden be allocated for capacity development on national institutions, awareness raising, reforestation, alternative energy and alternative livelihoods. Based on this suggestion, the Programme Steering Committee Approved 60% (\$960,000) of the funding allocated for capacity building, awareness raising and alternative energy through MoLFR and UNDP and 40% (\$640,000) for the alternative livelihoods through MoLFR and FAO.

In his closing remarks, H.E. Hussein Mohamud Sheikh Hussein, (Co-Chair), Minister of Livestock, Forestry and Range, Federal Government of Somalia thanked all the participants for their active participation and said that Somalia Government is fully committed to support the implementation of the PROSCAL interventions. The Minister also thanked and appreciated the work done by the Federal member states (FMS) and the good cooperation among FMS ministries of environment for ensuring the achievements of PROSCAL. He recalled that the Programme is in 70% shortfall and reiterated for

a resolute resourcing mobilisation strategy while requested additional funding support from the EU, Sweden and Italy MPTF donors. He said his ministry will closely work with all stakeholders to achieve the agreed actions and recommendations. He concluded with Convening quarterly technical meeting among the PUNOs, Government and Donors deemed appropriate to speed up the implementation of the remaining phase and provide timely guidance.

Agenda Item 5- Summary of agreed PSC Agreed decisions:

Summing up the feedbacks by the participants, H.E. Hussein Mohamud Sheikh Hussein, Minister for Livestock, Forestry and Range, Federal Government of Somalia, summarised the Key agreed decisions and actions as:

1. Revision of program strategy and Result Frameworks as per the recommendations of the Program mid-term evaluation and aligned with the priorities of National Development Plan (NDP9) by 30 June 2020.
2. Align the AWP's with the revised strategy, available funds, MTR recommendations, NDP9 and donor concerns/suggestions and to be shared with PSC
3. Convene quarterly technical meeting among Government, Participating UN Organisations (PUNOs) and Donors
4. Distribution of new allocation from Sweden be allocated for capacity development on national institutions, awareness raising, reforestation, alternative energy and alternative livelihoods. It is approved that 60% (\$960,000) of the funding allocated for capacity building, awareness raising and alternative energy through MoLFR and UNDP and 40% (\$640,000) for the alternative livelihoods through MoLFR and FAO
5. Coming up with an additional resources mobilization strategy to cover underfunded activities and fully achieve Programme objectives.
6. MoLFR will have a joint workplan with each PUNOs aligned with the priorities of national Development plan, PROSCAL mid-term review recommendations.

Approved by:

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Minster of Livestock, Forestry and Range
Federal Government of Somalia

16/06/2020

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