

# Action for Environment Annual Report

# 2022

# A4E

ACTION4ENVIRONMENT



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# Message from the Director and Chair of the Board

**Dear Environmental Enthusiasts,**

Over the past couple of years, I have had the pleasure of watching the resurgence of youth-led climate initiatives at Action for Environment. The transition, though difficult, has been a wonderful learning experience for us all. I am most humbled by the resilience of the team. We are pleased to share with you Action for Environment's annual report 2022. The report describes significant progress and outcomes as we continue to deliver on our mission – to empower communities, improve livelihoods, and better environmental management.

In 2022, as a part of its Quman Initiative, A4E provided training to over 15 women and girls who were affected by climate catastrophes such as floods and droughts, to find them better alternatives. Equipping them with the skills they need to create jobs that will subsequently enable them to generate income to sustain themselves and their families. We are deeply thankful for the ongoing support of our work. With friends at home, we are able to continue striding forward with this great work! It is so encouraging when you reach out to us, attend our events, and remain interested in our endeavors.

Finally, I extend my warmest appreciation to the A4E team and volunteers for their hard work, dedication, and unique commitment to attaining the organization's mission with their hard work. Drawing on our strong roots and looking firmly toward the future, I believe that for A4E the best is yet to come. The 2022 annual report of Action for Environment is something we are happy to share with you. The report details major advancements and results as we carry out our objective to strengthen communities, enhance livelihoods, and improve environmental management. We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude for your support of our mission and your participation in our work.

This report's contents are a reflection of the effort done by many people over many years, sometimes even decades. But more than anything, it is the outcome of the toil some labor of our neighborhood associations, with the constant assistance of our A4E Secretariat. Although there is still more to be done, we are making good progress. We appreciate your support in delivering these outcomes and thank you for your assistance. If you have any inquiries concerning the report, we would be pleased to respond.

Thank you for being part of this journey.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abdilatif Hussein Omar'.

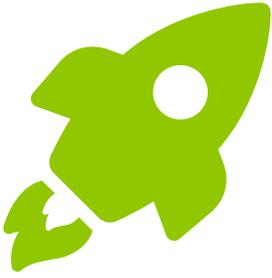
**Abdilatif Hussein Omar**  
Director and Chair of the Board



## About us

Action for Environment, formerly known and registered as Somali Environmental Conservation, was established by a group of educated Somali young environmentalists who believed in the enormity of the problem and the significant role one can play in tackling numerous environmental challenges that have contributed to the current humanitarian crisis in the region.

Action for Environment is a non-profit and non-governmental organization founded in 2016 with the objective of protecting the Somali environment through conservation, research, awareness, education, and activism in partnership with both national and international organizations with similar principles and objectives. In A4E, we believe that if all of us unite and take proper care in the protection and conservation of our environment, we can give our future generations a better tomorrow.



## Mission

At Action for Environment, our mission is to promote and coordinate environmental conservation through research, advocacy, and education. We strive to ensure a healthy environment for the present and future generations in the Horn of Africa, focusing on practical solutions and community engagement.



## Vision

Our vision is the realization of a sustainable, cleaner, healthier, and well-preserved environment in the Horn of Africa. We aim to be at the forefront of environmental stewardship, creating a model for others to follow.



## Values

Integrity, responsibility, and transparency form the bedrock of our organization. We believe in the power of innovation, the spirit of volunteerism, and the commitment to our cause. These values guide our actions and interactions as we work towards our vision.

# 3.0 Strategic Core Programs: Our Pillars of Change

Program	Description
<b>Quman Initiative Project (Empowering Through Skills and Culture)</b>	<p>The Quman Initiative is a four-month project that aims to provide training to women and girls affected by climate catastrophes, equipping them with the skills needed to create jobs and generate income for themselves and their families. The project also focuses on conserving culture by sharing traditional coping methods for climate challenges through technical training such as weaving and reusing materials.</p>
<b>Daango iyo Deegaan (Fostering Dialogue and Action for the Environment)</b>	<p>Daango iyo Deegaan is a monthly event that brings together environmental experts, environmentalists, students, and activists to share experiences and explore policy issues related to environmental challenges. The focus is on engaging youth in environmental conservation through education and awareness.</p>
<b>Mogadishu Environmental Summit (Uniting Minds for Environmental Action)</b>	<p>The Mogadishu Environmental Summit is an annual event that gathers policymakers, environmental experts, activists, NGOs, businesses, academics, researchers, and journalists to share knowledge and collaborate on creative solutions to environmental challenges in Somalia. The summit addresses topics such as climate adaptation, mitigation, resilience, peace and security, civil society engagement, and sustainable development.</p>
<b>School Environmental Club Initiative (Nurturing Young Minds)</b>	<p>Our environmental education and awareness campaign is focused on students at all levels, empowering them with knowledge and fostering a sense of responsibility towards the environment. Through engaging activities and educational initiatives, we aim to create a generation of environmentally conscious individuals who will contribute to a sustainable future.</p>



# 3.1 Quman Initiative Project: Empowering Through Skills and Culture

The Quman Initiative, spanning four months, stands as a symbol of hope and empowerment, specifically targeted towards women and girls who have been adversely affected by climate-related disasters. This initiative goes beyond mere skill training; it is a holistic approach to fostering economic independence and resilience.

By focusing on both traditional and technical skills, the Quman Initiative not only equips these women with the necessary tools to forge new livelihoods but also plays a crucial role in preserving the rich cultural heritage of their communities. This dual focus ensures that as these women build a foundation for economic stability, they also become custodians of their cultural legacy.

The core of the Quman Initiative lies in its ability to transform adversity into opportunity. Climate catastrophes, while devastating, have prompted us to find innovative ways to support those most impacted. The training provided through this project includes a wide range of skills, from traditional weaving and crafts to more contemporary skills like basic business management and sustainable practices.

This diverse skill set not only prepares participants to enter various sectors of the economy but also encourages them to incorporate environmentally sustainable methods into their work. By doing so, the Quman Initiative is nurturing a new generation of environmentally-conscious entrepreneurs.

The success of the Quman Initiative is measured not just in the skills acquired by its participants, but also in the wider impact on their communities. As these women gain independence and start contributing economically, they become role models and catalysts for change within their societies.

Their success stories inspire others and create a ripple effect, leading to stronger, more resilient communities. This project, therefore, is a testament to the power of empowerment and education. It shows how targeted interventions can build resilience against climate change while uplifting the most vulnerable sections of society. The Quman Initiative is more than a project; it's a blueprint for creating sustainable communities through empowerment and skill development.



## 3.2 Daango iyo Deegaan: Fostering Dialogue and Action for the Environment

Daango iyo Deegaan is a monthly event aimed at bringing together environmental experts, environmentalists, students, and activists to address environmental challenges and develop recommendations and follow-up activities. The events took place in Mogadishu, Somalia throughout the year 2022, with each month focusing on a specific topic related to environmental conservation.



# 3.2.0 Catalyzing Youth Participation in Environmental Conservation

Event: Daango iyo Deegaan at TCC, Mogadishu

The Daango iyo Deegaan event at TCC in Mogadishu highlighted the critical theme, "The Role of Youth in Environmental Conservation." This event underscored the vital importance of involving young people in the fight against environmental degradation. Mr. Abdilatif Hussein, the esteemed Director of Action for Environment, elucidated the organization's innovative strategy to form a dynamic youth group. This initiative aims to inspire and mobilize youth participation in environmental conservation activities, emphasizing the crucial role they play in shaping a sustainable future.



# 3.2.1 Youth Leadership for Climate Action: Aligning with SDG 13

Event: Daango iyo Deegaan at JAVA COFFEE, Mogadishu

At JAVA COFFEE in Mogadishu, another impactful Daango iyo Deegaan event delved into "SDG 13 and Somalia: Time for Youth to Take the Wheel." This gathering focused on Sustainable Development Goal 13, highlighting the need for urgent climate action and the protection of life on Earth. Abdullahi Ahmed Ali 'Najib,' a noted young climate expert and board member of Action for Environment, provided a comprehensive overview of this critical goal. He motivated the youth attendees to actively participate in climate action initiatives and discussed the overarching objectives of the Paris Agreement, emphasizing the role of the youth in achieving these global targets.



## 3.2.2 Tackling Deforestation: A Dual Urban and Rural Challenge

Event: Daango iyo Deegaan in Hiddossor, Mogadishu

The Daango iyo Deegaan event in Hiddossor, Mogadishu, focused on a pressing environmental issue: "Deforestation in Rural and Urban Areas of Somalia and Its Solutions." This crucial session featured insights from Mr. Abdisatar Arabow, a passionate environmental activist, and Dr. Sharif Osman, Director of the Institute of Water, Environment, and Peace at Mogadishu University. They discussed the multifaceted causes of deforestation in Somalia and proposed a suite of solutions, including empowering local communities, enhancing awareness, and advocating for more robust environmental regulations. This event was pivotal in addressing one of the most significant environmental challenges facing Somalia today.



## 3.2.3 Enhancing Environmental Awareness Among Tourists in Kahda District

Event: Daango iyo Deegaan in Kahda District, Mogadishu

The Daango iyo Deegaan event in the scenic Kahda District of Mogadishu was dedicated to "Increasing Tourists' Awareness towards Environmental Protection." This event aimed to sensitize tourists to the importance of environmental conservation, promoting sustainable tourism practices.

The focus was on reducing pollution and waste by encouraging the use of eco-friendly alternatives, such as reusable bottles and bags. This successful initiative led to the collection of plastics discarded by tourists, significantly raising awareness about the vital role tourists play in preserving the environment they visit.

These Daango iyo Deegaan events represent a series of concerted efforts by Action for Environment to address diverse environmental issues through education, awareness, and active engagement. Each event not only provided a platform for discussion and learning but also acted as a catalyst for tangible change, involving crucial stakeholders from various sectors of society.



# 4. Mogadishu Environmental Summit (MES): Uniting Minds for Environmental Action

The inaugural Mogadishu Environmental Summit (MES), a landmark event in Somalia's environmental sector, was held on June 15-16, 2022, at the Afrik Hotel in Mogadishu. This pioneering summit, organized by Action for Environment in partnership with the Somali Center for Water & Environment, marked a significant stride in addressing the nation's ecological challenges.

Attracting over 300 participants from various sectors, including policymakers, environmental experts, activists, non-governmental organizations, businesses, academics, researchers, and journalists, MES provided an unprecedented opportunity for cross-sector collaboration. The central theme, "Somalia and Climate Change: Time for Action," underscored the urgency of the environmental crisis and the need for immediate, actionable solutions.

The summit delved into a range of critical sub-themes, encompassing climate adaptation and mitigation, resilience, the nexus between climate change and peace, the vital role of civil society, and the importance of climate research and advocacy. This array of topics facilitated a comprehensive discourse on the multifaceted nature of environmental challenges facing Somalia.

Enriching the experience of the summit were keynote speeches, insightful panel discussions, and engaging exhibitions that showcased eco-friendly products and innovations. These elements of the summit not only provided a platform for sharing knowledge and best practices but also stimulated creative thinking and problem-solving among the attendees.

The MES 2022 successfully created a confluence of ideas and expertise, setting the stage for collaborative efforts towards sustainable environmental solutions. By bringing together diverse voices and perspectives, the summit fostered a holistic approach to environmental management, emphasizing the collective responsibility and potential for impactful change in the fight against climate change in Somalia.



MOGADISHU ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT

15 16 JUN, 2022

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# 5. Nurturing Young Minds: The School Environmental Club Initiative

In addition to our key activities and achievements, we are pleased to highlight the establishment of the School Environmental Club for Mocassir School in Mogadishu. Recognizing the importance of educating younger generations about environmental issues, Action for Environment initiated this program with the aim of creating awareness and fostering environmental education among children.

Throughout the year, the School Environmental Club at Mocassir School engaged students in various activities such as tree planting, waste management campaigns, and educational workshops on climate change and sustainability. These activities aimed to instill a sense of responsibility, environmental consciousness, and sustainable practices among the participating students.

We are delighted to report that the program has been successful thus far. The School Environmental Club at Mocassir School has made a positive impact on the students, empowering them to become advocates for the environment within their school and communities. The club members have actively participated in environmental initiatives and have demonstrated their commitment to preserving the environment.

Building upon this success, Action for Environment aims to expand the School Environmental Club initiative to other schools across Somalia in the upcoming years. By reaching out to more educational institutions, we hope to create a broader network of environmentally conscious students who will contribute to sustainable development and environmental conservation in their communities.

We believe that investing in the environmental education of young children is crucial for building a sustainable future. By equipping them with knowledge and empowering them to take action, we can cultivate a generation that is environmentally aware and actively engaged in protecting our planet.





# 6. Action for Environment's 'Only One Earth' Gala: Celebrating World Environment Day 2022

In alignment with our ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship, Action for Environment proudly commemorated World Environment Day, embracing the global theme of "Only One Earth". This theme serves as a poignant reminder of our collective responsibility to protect the only home we have.

Our organization's celebration of this significant day was marked by a series of events and activities that not only honored the essence of the theme but also galvanized community involvement and awareness about sustainable practices. These efforts underscore our dedication to fostering a deeper connection between individuals and the environment, emphasizing the critical need for sustainable living to preserve our planet for future generations.





# 7. Championing Peace and Sustainability: A4E Peace Forum Highlights

In observance of the International Peace Day on September 21, 2022, Action for Environment, in collaboration with the Somali Greenpeace Association, organized an event with the theme "Climate Change, Peace, and Security Nexus in Somalia." This youth-led session featured peace builders, climate activists, and security experts who shared their experiences and insights.

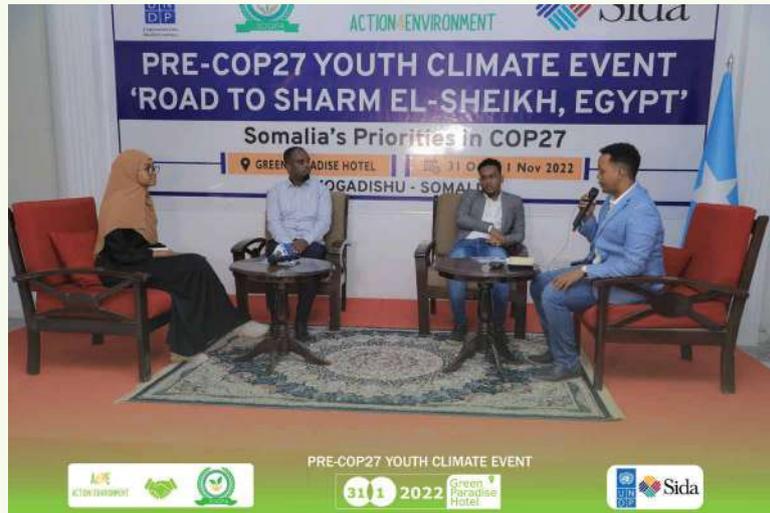
The event aimed to highlight the impact of climate change on peace and security, emphasizing the need to build community resilience and sustainable peace in the face of climate challenges. The event brought together community elders, civil society organizations, youth, women, and government officials in a hybrid format, fostering diverse perspectives and discussions.



# 8. Global Youth Voices: Pre-COP27 Youth and Climate Engagement

In a significant step towards addressing climate change, Action for Environment spearheaded a vital initiative that gathered over 80 participants, including youth, government representatives, and marginalized groups. This event, supported by the Swedish Government/SIDA and facilitated by UNDP, served as an enlightening platform to deepen the understanding of the COP/UN FCCC process, focusing on Somalia's specific concerns for COP27.

Key discussions centered on critical issues such as loss and damage, enhancing access to funding for youth and civil society organizations, and the formulation of a comprehensive communique to outline the summit's outcomes. Furthermore, the event highlighted the proactive measures undertaken by Somali youth in their fight against climate change, showcasing their commitment and contributions to this global challenge.



# 9. A Voice on the World Stage: A4E at COP27

Action for Environment's participation in COP27, held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, was a landmark moment as it marked our inaugural attendance at a COP conference. This pivotal event provided us with a unique platform to represent Somalia and advocate for the nation's climate change concerns and needs. Our delegation, comprising members from various ministries of the Federal Government of Somalia, actively engaged in diverse sessions and dialogues.

We focused on advocating for robust climate action, sustainable development, and seeking redress for the impacts of global warming. This engagement at COP27 was not only a crucial step in amplifying Somalia's voice on the global environmental stage but also an opportunity to forge vital connections with international organizations and networks.

The insights and experiences gained from this conference have immensely enriched our understanding and approach towards climate change adaptation, setting the stage for future collaborations and innovative environmental solutions.



# 10. Reflecting on 2022: Growth, Impact, and the Path Forward

As we reflect on the year 2022, we celebrate our achievements and the positive impact we have made. From empowering women through the Quman Initiative to fostering youth engagement and advocacy at COP27, our journey has been one of growth, learning, and impact.

Looking ahead, we are excited to build upon this momentum, expanding our initiatives and deepening our impact for a sustainable future. Together, let us continue this journey towards a greener, more prosperous Somalia.

This report is a celebration of our journey, a showcase of our impact, and a blueprint for our future endeavors. We invite you to join us in this mission, to be part of a movement that is shaping a better tomorrow.





ACTION4ENVIRONMENT

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