



ACTION4ENVIRONMENT

Annual Report 2024

**Together for a
Greener Somalia**

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Message from the Director and Chair of the Board

Dear Environmental Champions,

It is with great pride and gratitude that I present to you Action for Environment's Annual Report for 2024. This past year has been a defining chapter in our journey one marked by powerful breakthroughs, bold collaborations, and grassroots climate action driven by the passion of young people, women, and local communities.

In 2024, A4E stood at the forefront of Somalia's environmental transformation. From influencing national policy like the ESIA Regulation and the landmark ban on single-use plastic bags, to co-leading the Mogadishu Environmental Summit, our organization has worked tirelessly to align policy, education, and practice. Each milestone was not just an achievement, but a reflection of our collective resilience.

I am deeply inspired by the unwavering spirit of our team, our partners, and the thousands of volunteers who showed up in beach cleanups, biodiversity campaigns, climate dialogues, and international forums like COP29. Together, we amplified Somali voices, bridged local wisdom with global platforms, and reimagined what is possible.

One of the most meaningful efforts of the year was our strategic project with Oxfam and AACJ, which empowered marginalized communities with knowledge, green spaces, and children's climate education materials.

We also celebrated our recognition at the Best Arab Volunteers Awards and contributed meaningfully to the Somalia Youth Statement at COP29. These moments are not only rewarding, they remind us of the impact we create when we act with purpose and unity.

To our supporters thank you. Your belief in our mission fuels us. Whether you joined a dialogue, followed our campaigns, donated, or simply believed in our work you are part of this movement. And to our A4E staff, board, and tireless volunteers: your dedication has made 2024 a year to remember.

As we turn the page toward 2025, we do so with optimism and renewed resolve. The challenges ahead are real from climate-induced displacement to policy enforcement gaps but so is our commitment. With your continued support, I am confident that A4E will keep growing stronger, wiser, and more impactful.

Let us keep building together for climate justice, for our communities, and for the generations yet to come.



**Mr.
Abdilatif
Omar**

**A4E's Executive
Director**

Foreword

The year 2024 marked a transformative period for Somalia's environmental movement, with Action for Environment (A4E) playing a leading role in advocating for change, mobilizing communities, and advancing climate justice. From influencing national policy to implementing grassroots actions, A4E made significant strides toward building a greener, more resilient Somalia. This report captures the achievements and milestones of the year, reflecting our unwavering commitment to sustainability, education, and inclusive climate action.



National Environmental Policy Milestones

Somalia Bans Single-Use Plastic Bags

In a landmark achievement, **Somalia enforced a nationwide ban on the import, export, sale, and use of single-use plastic bags on February 1, 2025.** This historic step was led by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) and represented the culmination of years of sustained advocacy by Action for Environment (A4E) and other environmental stakeholders. A4E's persistent awareness campaigns, school-based programs, and policy engagement contributed significantly to public support and the eventual adoption of the ban.

Environmental Protection and Management Law Ratified

Just weeks later, Somalia ratified the Environmental Protection and Management Law on February 13, 2025. This comprehensive legal framework aims to conserve natural resources, regulate waste, and enhance environmental governance. A4E remains actively involved in promoting public understanding of the law and supporting its enforcement through grassroots education and civic monitoring.

Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) Regulation Approved

Additionally, on May 23, 2024, the Federal Cabinet approved the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) Regulation, which mandates environmental and social evaluations for all development projects. A4E applauded this milestone, viewing it as essential for aligning Somalia's development with sustainability and international best practices.



Community-Based Environmental Actions

Throughout the year, A4E continued to mobilize local communities through high impact initiatives.

Daango iyo Deegaan: Ramadan and the Environment (March 2024)

In March 2024, A4E held a Ramadan themed environmental dialogue under its Daango iyo Deegaan series at Mo'asar School in Mogadishu. The session engaged over 60 participants, exploring the intersection of faith and sustainability and encouraging eco-conscious practices during the holy month. The campaign led to the launch of the “**Ramadan Sustainability Tips**” initiative and partnerships with households, mosques, restaurants, and hotels to reduce food waste and plastic use.



Beach Cleanup Campaign Curubo (World Environment Day, June 5, 2025)

On World Environment Day, June 5, 2025, Action for Environment (A4E) in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) to lead a beach cleanup campaign at Curubo Beach. The activity mobilized volunteers under the global theme “**Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience**,” removing significant amounts of debris and amplifying awareness under the slogan “**There is No Planet B.**”



International Coastal Cleanup Day (September 2024)

In September 2024, A4E marked International Coastal Cleanup Day at Hamarweyne Beach, bringing together over 200 volunteers, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) representatives, and the Mogadishu Municipality Waste Management Company. Together, they collected over three truckloads of marine waste and distributed educational materials to beachgoers, further reinforcing the importance of community based marine conservation.



Biodiversity Education Through Birdfeeding Stations (May 2024)

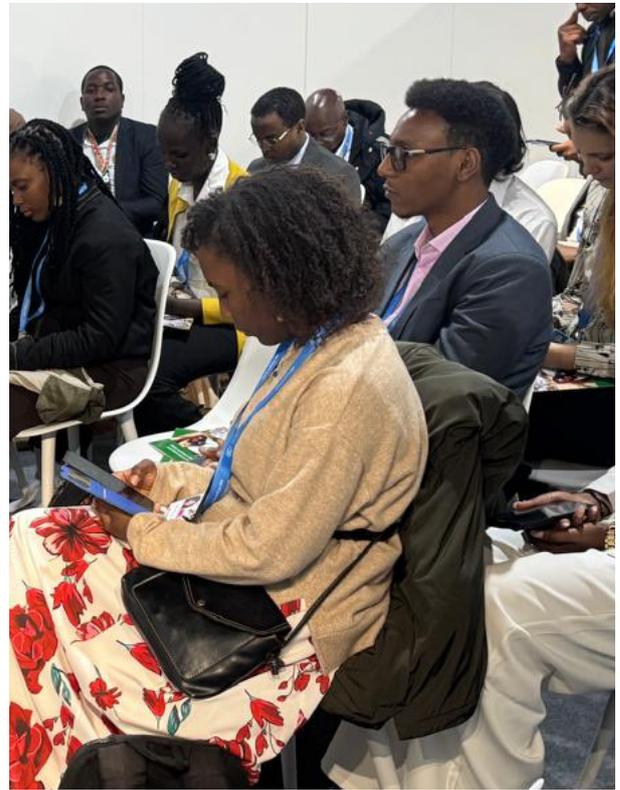
In May 2024, A4E commemorated the International Day for Biodiversity by installing birdfeeding stations at SOS Children's Village School. These installations served as both ecological interventions and educational tools, enabling students to observe bird behavior and learn about biodiversity. The initiative deepened youth appreciation for urban wildlife and encouraged practical environmental stewardship. With growing interest, A4E promoted birdfeeding stations as simple yet powerful tools for boosting biodiversity and connecting young people to nature.



National and International Advocacy

COP29 Participation Baku, Azerbaijan (November 2024)

Later in the year, A4E's Executive Director, Mr. Abdilatif Omar, and Program Manager, Mr. Mohamed Hussein, represented Somalia at the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) held in Baku, Azerbaijan. During the conference, A4E spoke on behalf of civil society organizations and served as the voice of the people in Co-presenting the Somalia Youth Statement. The delegation actively participated in sessions focused on climate finance, youth inclusion, and adaptation in fragile states. Additionally, A4E forged strategic global partnerships aimed at strengthening Somalia's climate resilience efforts.



UNDP Workshop on Youth in NDCs

Domestically, Action for environment (A4E) co-hosted a workshop with UNDP Somalia exploring COP28 insights and youth roles in Somalia's updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This workshop included the official launch of the Somalia Youth Climate Platform, an initiative designed to empower young environmental leaders and increase their participation in climate policy-making.

Notable Moment: Our Program Manager Mr Mohamed Hussein and Director of Somali Women in Environment and Climate Change (SWECC) Miss. Najma Khalif Mohamed shared their COP28 insights.



EACON 2024 – East African Community Conference

Action for Environment (A4E) also took part in the East African Community Conference (EACON 2024), where the Executive Director Mr Abdilatif Omar as one of the panalist invited to the EACON 2024 delivered a keynote emphasizing the importance of **collaboration between academia and civil society in shaping evidence-based climate policies**. The speech called for inclusive, multi-stakeholder engagement across the East African region to address shared environmental challenges.



Strategic Projects: Empowering Communities for Climate Action

Overview

In partnership with Oxfam and the African Activists for Climate Justice (AACJ), Action for Environment (A4E) implemented a community empowerment project from June to August 2024 aimed at building climate resilience among marginalized populations, particularly women, youth, and internally displaced persons (IDPs). The project featured three major components:

1. Community consultations.
2. Creation of Green sharing spaces.
3. Development of educational Material tools. (“Dhaxalside: Ubadka iyo Isbedelka Cimilada”)

On July 27, 2024, a consultation event engaged 65 participants in conversations about green practices, national climate commitments, and the need for stronger civil society-government Collaboration.

A follow-up session on **August 19** created “sharing spaces” where IDPs and local leaders shared experiences and proposed locally led climate solutions.

A4E also launched the children’s climate education book “Dhaxalside: Ubadka iyo Isbedelka Cimilada” in September 2024. The book simplified climate science for young readers and received praise from educators and parents.

The initiative underscored A4E’s commitment to environmental education as a foundation for long-term change. Throughout the project, Action for Environment (A4E) documented locally led climate solutions and advocated for the integration of community knowledge into national policies. The project promoted transparency, inclusive funding mechanisms, and the prioritization of vulnerable groups in climate adaptation planning.



1. Community consultations.

On July 27, 2024, Action for Environment organized a community consultation and training workshop aimed at empowering local communities to take a more active role in climate action. The event brought together participants from various sectors, including youth, women, students, civil society organizations, and marginalized groups to engage in meaningful dialogue and learning. It opened with a strong message: that climate resilience in Somalia must begin with those most affected and most capable of leading change from the ground up.

The workshop featured a series of insightful presentations focused on practical climate solutions and policy understanding. Participants explored how everyday practices, such as hosting green events and improving waste management, can contribute to sustainability. They also learned about the importance of social inclusion in environmental work, the role of national frameworks like the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plan (NAP), and the urgent environmental challenges Somalia faces, such as land degradation, drought, and deforestation. These sessions emphasized the need for both top-down policies and bottom-up engagement to close the gap between strategy and community action.

Interactive group discussions and a panel conversation highlighted the voices of local stakeholders and their roles in driving climate solutions. Participants identified a major gap between civil society and government in coordinating climate efforts and called for stronger collaboration, clearer roles, and inclusive education. The event ended with a collective call for climate justice, urging greater support for youth-led initiatives and grassroots leadership. Participants made it clear that investing in communities is not just beneficial, it's essential for building a peaceful, sustainable, and climate-resilient Somalia.



2. Creation of Green sharing spaces.

On August 19, 2024, Action for Environment (A4E) created a platform for local communities to come together and share their lived experiences, innovations, and leadership in confronting climate change challenges. The event gathered displaced individuals, camp leaders, local authorities, environmental experts, and marginalized voices to reflect on the devastating impact of climate change, particularly on internally displaced persons (IDPs). The central aim was to listen, learn, and recognize how climate shocks are not just environmental issues, but deeply human ones affecting homes, livelihoods, and the dignity of thousands of people across Somalia.

Community members shared deeply moving stories that revealed both vulnerability and resilience. IDPs expressed how floods, droughts, and other climate-related disasters had uprooted their lives, pushing them into camps where access to basic services and decision-making power remained limited. Yet, alongside these hardships, many presented locally driven climate actions, such as water-saving practices, community gardens, and informal early warning systems, which showed that even in displacement, innovation and hope persist. The event included interactive sessions where participants exchanged ideas, highlighted adaptive strategies they were already using, and explored opportunities to scale these efforts through collective action and inclusive policies.

One of the key insights that emerged from this gathering was the urgent need for human-centered approaches to climate policy and programming. Discussions made it clear that solutions must not be imposed from above but shaped with the people most affected, by continuously listening to them, gathering feedback, and adjusting interventions accordingly. The event reinforced the importance of making space for IDPs and marginalized groups not only to share their stories but to shape the direction of climate solutions in Somalia. It ended with a powerful message: that by investing in skills, protection, and support for vulnerable communities, stakeholders can help build a more just and resilient future for all.



3. Development of educational Material tools. (“Dhaxalside: Ubadka iyo Isbedelka Cimilada”)

On September 12, Action for Environment (A4E) organized a vibrant book exhibition at Istanbul Hotel to introduce and celebrate Dhaxalside: Ubadka iyo Isbedelka Cimilada, a groundbreaking children’s book on climate change. The event formed part of A4E’s broader initiative to engage local communities in climate education and action. It attracted a wide audience, including children, parents, educators, and community leaders, all eager to explore new ways to introduce environmental issues to young minds. The exhibition created a dynamic and welcoming space where participants could learn, interact, and reflect on the urgent need to build climate awareness from an early age.

The exhibition featured interactive elements such as live readings by local authors and educators, allowing children to connect with the book’s message in a fun and engaging way. Informational pamphlets were distributed, and community members were encouraged to explore local climate initiatives. Speakers at the event emphasized the importance of equipping children with the knowledge and tools they need to understand and respond to climate change. They also highlighted the importance of making environmental education accessible, especially in a way that connects with children’s lived experiences and cultural context. The book, written in Somali and tailored for young readers, was widely praised as a unique and much-needed resource.

The response from the community was overwhelmingly positive. Parents expressed appreciation for how the book simplified complex climate concepts, and teachers showed enthusiasm for using it in classrooms across Somalia. The event was more than a book launch, it was a powerful moment of community empowerment. As the first children’s climate book written in Somali, Dhaxalside was recognized as a transformative educational tool that can inspire a generation of young advocates. Building on this momentum, A4E plans to bring similar events to other regions, continuing to use storytelling and literature as a way to nurture environmental responsibility and leadership in children across the country.



Mogadishu Environmental Summit 2024

On December 5, 2024, Action for Environment (A4E), in collaboration with SIMAD University's Institute of Climate and Environment (ICE) and Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) hosted the **Mogadishu Environmental Summit 2024** at Hotel Jazeera. The summit brought together over 200 stakeholders, including government officials, civil society, youth, private sector actors, and researchers. Under the theme **“Empowering Communities for Climate Action: Climate Justice Through Green Jobs and Sustainable Livelihoods,”** the summit featured three high-level panel discussions, five technical presentations, and multiple exhibitions. Topics ranged from drought patterns in Somalia to climate-smart farming and eco-entrepreneurship. Youth-led innovations and traditional knowledge systems were also highlighted. The summit concluded with the adoption of a powerful communiqué calling for the establishment of a National Climate Fund, the scaling of decentralized renewable energy systems, and the strengthening of **NDC 3.0 implementation** in Somalia.

Keynote remarks by Action for Environment (A4E) Director Mr. Abdilatif Hussein Omar, SIMAD Rector Dr. Abdikarim Mohaidin, and Ministry of Environment and Climate Change's (MoECC) Hafsa Abdullahi Omar called for stronger collaboration and policy support. The closing session, led by ICE Director Mr. Mohamed Okash, presented a joint **communiqué** outlining Somalia's climate action commitments, while acknowledgments from Abdullahi Ahmed and Hafsa Abdilahi reinforced the shared responsibility for a sustainable future.



Daango iyo Deegaan: Reflecting on COP29 Through Local Dialogue

To conclude a remarkable year of environmental engagement, Action for Environment (A4E) hosted a special edition of Daango iyo Deegaan in December 2024, centered on unpacking the outcomes of the 29th UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku. Facilitated by A4E Executive Director Mr. Abdilatif Omar, the session created a vibrant space for students, youth activists, environmentalists, and community leaders to reflect on the conference's key themes and their relevance to Somalia's environmental challenges and priorities. Held at Mo'asar School in Mogadishu, the dialogue explored four major themes: climate finance, localizing climate action, renewable energy, and adaptation and resilience. Participants engaged in interactive discussions on how COP29 decisions could translate into local opportunities, particularly in vulnerable communities facing recurrent droughts, floods, and displacement. Real-life examples of solar energy use, community-led adaptation projects, and youth-led advocacy were shared, underscoring the importance of translating high level climate commitments into on-the-ground action.

The session strengthened awareness of global climate negotiations and empowered local voices to see themselves as part of the solution. While challenges like the complexity of COP language and limited local representation in international forums were noted, the workshop affirmed the power of grassroots engagement and knowledge sharing. As a result, participants left with renewed purpose, committed to advancing climate action in their communities and advocating for greater inclusion of Somali voices in global climate policy.



Reflections and Looking Forward

In 2024, A4E made measurable progress in aligning national policy with community needs, amplifying youth voices, and advancing sustainable practices. The organization influenced two major national laws and one regulatory framework, implemented five large-scale community campaigns, and reached thousands of people through education and advocacy.

A4E's presence at international platforms like COP29 and ECON 2024 helped elevate Somali climate priorities on the global stage. Nonetheless, challenges remain. Cultural resistance to behavior change, limited outreach capacity in rural areas, and the need for stronger coordination across sectors hinder consistent progress. To address these gaps, A4E plans to expand its school-based programs, strengthen youth leadership pathways, monitor policy implementation, and scale the Daango iyo Deegaan dialogue series to more regions.



Acknowledgments

Action for Environment extends its deepest gratitude to the volunteers, educators, government partners, civil society actors, international allies, and youth leaders who made 2024 a groundbreaking year. Your commitment continues to drive transformative change. As we move forward, we carry the shared responsibility to protect our environment, restore our ecosystems, and build a sustainable future for generations to come.



Because protecting the environment is not just a duty it is our future.





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