



**SOMALI
NATURE
FOUNDATION**

ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

Protecting Nature • Empowering Communities

About SONAFO

Somali Nature Foundation (SONAFO) is a Somali non-governmental and non-profit organization dedicated to promoting environmental sustainability, climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods, humanitarian action, and inclusive development across Somalia.

SONAFO was established to address the interconnected environmental, social, and economic challenges facing Somalia, including climate change, land degradation, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, food insecurity, poverty, environmental degradation, and vulnerability to disasters.

The organization works closely with communities, government institutions, development partners, academic institutions, civil society organizations, and the private sector to deliver sustainable and community-driven solutions that improve livelihoods while protecting natural resources for future generations.



Mission

To conserve natural resources, strengthen community resilience, promote sustainable livelihoods, support humanitarian action, and advance inclusive development through innovative, evidence-based, and community-centered approaches.

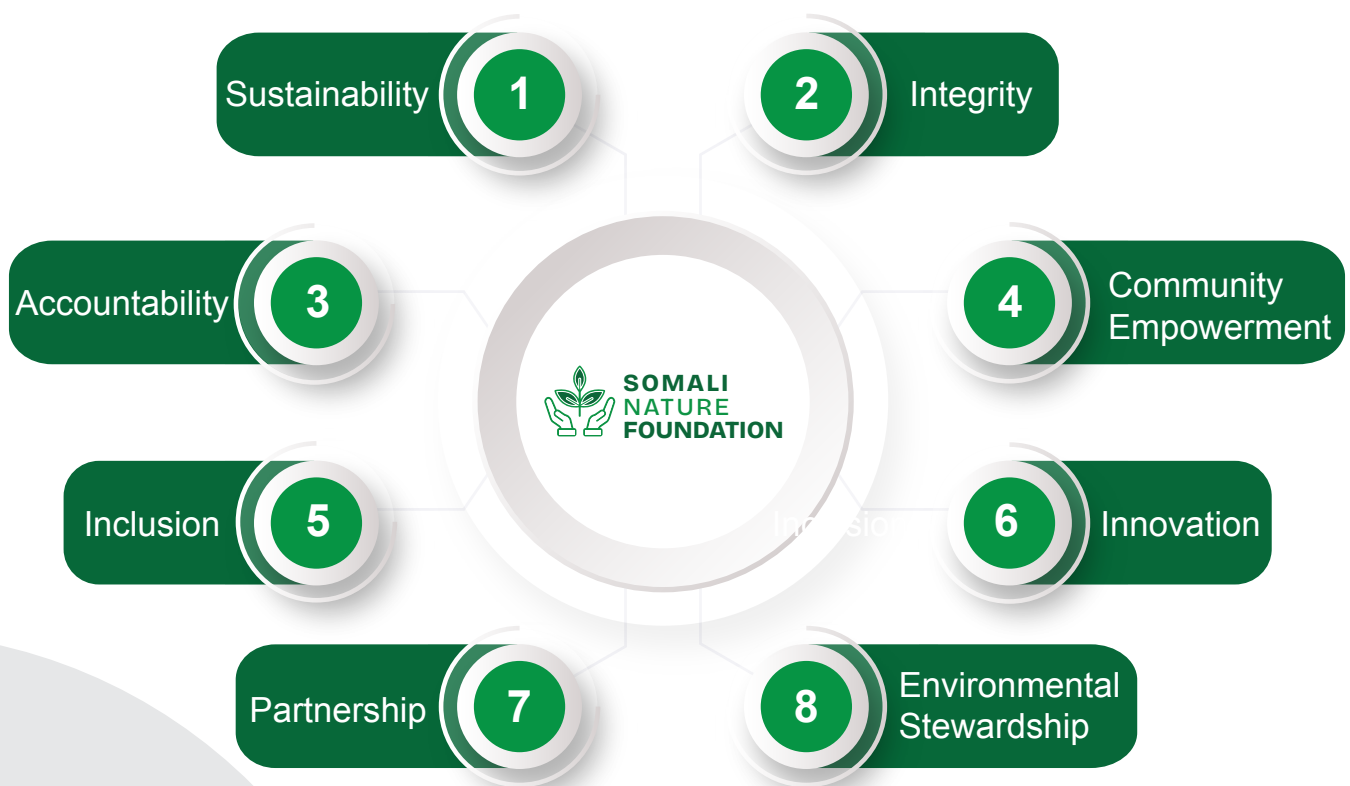


Vision

A resilient, prosperous, and environmentally sustainable Somalia where people and nature thrive together.

Core Values

SONAFO's core values guide its work, decisions, partnerships, and community engagement by promoting sustainability, integrity, accountability, community empowerment, inclusion, innovation, partnership, and environmental stewardship. Together, these values ensure that SONAFO's programs are transparent, community-centered, environmentally responsible, and focused on long-term positive impact across Somalia.



Strategic Sectors

Sector 1: Environment, Climate Change, and Natural Resource Management

SONAFO works to protect Somalia's environment, strengthen climate resilience, and promote sustainable use of natural resources. Somalia faces serious challenges such as drought, deforestation, land degradation, biodiversity loss, and climate related disasters. This sector focuses on restoring ecosystems, protecting natural resources, and helping communities adapt to climate change while improving their livelihoods.

- **Climate change adaptation and mitigation**

SONAFO supports communities to adapt to droughts, floods, rising temperatures, and changing rainfall patterns. The organization also promotes activities that reduce environmental damage and lower climate risks.

- **Environmental conservation**

This includes protecting forests, rangelands, rivers, coastal areas, wildlife habitats, and other natural ecosystems from degradation and overuse.

- **Ecosystem restoration**

SONAFO promotes restoration of degraded lands, forests, riverbanks, grazing areas, and coastal ecosystems so they can again support people, livestock, wildlife, and biodiversity.

- **Reforestation and afforestation**

The organization supports tree planting, community nurseries, protection of native trees, and restoration of deforested areas to reduce erosion and improve the environment.

- **Land degradation control**

SONAFO works on soil protection, erosion control, sustainable land use, and community awareness to reduce desertification and restore productive land.

- **Natural resource governance**

This focuses on helping communities and institutions manage land, water, forests, rangelands, and biodiversity in a fair, transparent, and sustainable way.

- **Renewable energy promotion**

SONAFO promotes clean energy solutions such as solar energy, energy-efficient cooking, and alternatives that reduce pressure on forests and charcoal production.

- **Community climate resilience**

The foundation helps communities prepare for climate shocks through awareness, training, early warning, livelihood diversification, and local adaptation plans.

| Sector 2: Agriculture and Food Security

SONAFO supports sustainable agriculture to improve food production, household income, and rural livelihoods. Agriculture is essential for Somalia's food security and economic development, but farmers face challenges such as drought, poor inputs, weak markets, pests, limited irrigation, and low technical capacity. This sector promotes climate-smart and productive farming systems.

- **Climate-smart agriculture**

SONAFO promotes farming practices that increase productivity and help farmers adapt to climate change, such as drought-tolerant crops, improved soil management, and efficient water use.

- **Sustainable crop production**

This includes improving crop cultivation methods, using quality seeds, proper planting practices, pest control, and post-harvest handling.

- **Agroforestry systems**

SONAFO encourages the integration of trees with crops and livestock to improve soil fertility, provide shade, reduce erosion, and diversify income.

- **Soil and water conservation**

The organization supports techniques that protect soil and conserve water, including contour farming, mulching, water harvesting, and erosion control.

- **Irrigation development**

SONAFO promotes small-scale irrigation systems, water-efficient technologies, and improved access to water for farmers in riverine and dryland areas.

- **Farmer capacity building**

This includes training farmers on improved farming techniques, farm management, climate adaptation, input use, and market-oriented production.

- **Agricultural value chains**

SONAFO supports farmers from production to market by strengthening input supply, processing, storage, transportation, and market access.

- **Food security initiatives**

The organization works to reduce hunger and improve household nutrition through improved production, livelihood support, community gardens, and emergency food security responses.

| Sector 3: Livestock and Pastoral Development

Livestock is one of Somalia's most important livelihood sectors. SONAFO works with pastoral and agro-pastoral communities to improve livestock health, productivity, market access, and resilience to drought and climate shocks. This sector supports sustainable rangeland management and stronger livestock-based livelihoods.

- **Animal health and veterinary services**

SONAFO supports access to animal treatment, vaccination, disease prevention, community animal health workers, and veterinary outreach services.

- **Livestock production improvement**

This includes improving animal feeding, breeding, herd management, milk production, and overall livestock productivity.

- **Rangeland restoration**

SONAFO promotes restoration of degraded grazing lands through reseedling, controlled grazing, soil conservation, and community rangeland management.

- **Pastoral resilience**

The foundation helps pastoral communities cope with drought, disease outbreaks, market shocks, and climate-related livelihood risks.

- **Drought preparedness**

SONAFO supports early action before droughts, including water planning, fodder storage, livestock health campaigns, and community preparedness plans.

- **Livestock value chain development**

This focuses on improving the livestock sector from production to marketing, including animal health, transport, processing, trade, and value addition.

- **Market access enhancement**

SONAFO helps livestock producers connect with better markets, improve product quality, and increase income from livestock and livestock products.

- **Sustainable grazing management**

The foundation promotes responsible grazing practices, pasture rotation, protection of grazing areas, and community-based rangeland governance.

Sector 4: Blue Economy, Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development

Somalia has one of the longest coastlines in Africa and strong potential in fisheries and the blue economy. SONAFO promotes sustainable use of marine, coastal, and inland aquatic resources while protecting aquatic ecosystems. This sector supports fishing communities, fish value chains, coastal livelihoods, and marine conservation.

- **Marine fisheries development**

SONAFO supports sustainable fishing practices, fishing skills, equipment access, safety awareness, and improved productivity for coastal fishing communities.

- **Inland fisheries development**

This includes supporting fishing activities in rivers, seasonal water bodies, and inland aquatic systems where communities can benefit from fish production.

- **Aquaculture and fish farming**

SONAFO promotes fish farming as an alternative livelihood and food security activity, especially where natural fish resources are limited.

- **Fisheries value chain development**

The foundation supports the full fisheries chain, including catching, handling, storage, processing, transport, and marketing.

- **Fish processing and marketing**

SONAFO helps communities improve fish preservation, drying, cold storage, hygiene, packaging, and access to local and regional markets.

- **Marine ecosystem conservation**

The foundation helps protect coastal habitats, coral areas, mangroves, breeding zones, and marine biodiversity from pollution and overexploitation.

- **Coastal livelihoods enhancement**

SONAFO supports income opportunities for coastal communities through fisheries, small enterprises, skills training, and sustainable marine-based livelihoods.

- **Sustainable blue economy initiatives**

The foundation promotes responsible economic use of ocean and coastal resources while protecting the environment for future generations.

- **Aquatic biodiversity conservation**

SONAFO works to protect fish species, aquatic habitats, and marine life from degradation, illegal fishing, pollution, and unsustainable exploitation.

| Sector 5: Water Resources, WASH and Community Resilience

Water scarcity is one of the major challenges in Somalia. SONAFO promotes sustainable water management, safe water access, sanitation, hygiene, and community resilience. This sector links water security with public health, drought resilience, and natural resource protection.

- **Water resource management**

The foundation supports planning and sustainable use of water sources such as rivers, boreholes, shallow wells, berkads, and rainwater systems.

- **Watershed management**

The foundation promotes the protection of catchment areas, riverbanks, and water flow systems to reduce erosion, flooding, and water loss.

- **Rainwater harvesting**

SONAFO encourages the collection and storage of rainwater for domestic use, agriculture, livestock, and drought preparedness.

- **Water infrastructure development**

This includes rehabilitation or construction of wells, water tanks, boreholes, water points, canals, and community water systems.

- **WASH interventions**

SONAFO supports access to safe water, sanitation facilities, hygiene materials, and clean environments to reduce disease risks.

- **Community hygiene promotion**

The foundation conducts hygiene awareness on handwashing, safe water storage, sanitation, waste disposal, and disease prevention.

- **Drought resilience**

SONAFO helps communities prepare for water shortages through water storage, rehabilitation of water points, drought planning, and livelihood protection.

- **Integrated water resource management**

This approach connects water use across agriculture, livestock, households, the environment, and disaster risk reduction to ensure fair and sustainable management.

Sector 6: Humanitarian Action and Disaster Risk Management

SONAFO supports communities affected by drought, floods, conflict, displacement, disease outbreaks, and other emergencies. This sector focuses on preparedness, emergency response, recovery, and long-term resilience. The aim is to save lives, reduce suffering, restore livelihoods, and strengthen community systems.

- **Emergency response and relief assistance**

The foundation provides urgent support to affected communities, including essential supplies, food security assistance, WASH support, and livelihood protection.

- **Disaster risk reduction**

The foundation works to reduce the impact of disasters by identifying risks, strengthening community preparedness, and supporting prevention measures.

- **Early warning and preparedness systems**

SONAFO promotes local early warning systems that help communities prepare before droughts, floods, or other emergencies become severe.

- **Flood risk management and flood response**

This includes flood preparedness, awareness, evacuation support, emergency response, and rehabilitation after floods.

- **River flood and flash flood mitigation**

The foundation supports measures to reduce flood damage in riverine and low-lying areas, including community planning and protection of vulnerable zones.

- **Drought preparedness and response**

SONAFO helps communities prepare for drought through water support, livelihood assistance, animal health, and food security interventions.

- **Climate-induced disaster management**

After emergencies, SONAFO supports communities to rebuild livelihoods, restore services, rehabilitate infrastructure, and recover from losses.

- **Livelihood recovery and restoration**

This includes helping farmers, pastoralists, women, youth, and displaced households restart income-generating activities.

- **Community resilience building**

SONAFO strengthens local capacity to withstand shocks through training, planning, livelihood diversification, and community-based institutions.

- **Protection and social inclusion**

The foundation ensures that vulnerable groups, including women, children, youth, elderly people, displaced people, and persons with disabilities, are included and protected.

- **Emergency WASH and public health interventions**

SONAFO supports clean water, sanitation, hygiene promotion, and disease prevention during emergencies.

- **Humanitarian coordination and capacity building**

The foundation works with government, NGOs, UN agencies, and community structures to improve emergency coordination and response capacity.

Sector 7: Community Development, Women and Youth Empowerment

SONAFO promotes inclusive community development by empowering women, youth, and vulnerable groups. This sector focuses on participation, skills development, entrepreneurship, leadership, and social inclusion. Strong communities are essential for sustainable development and resilience.

- **Community mobilization**

The foundation engages communities in identifying problems, planning solutions, implementing activities, and monitoring local development initiatives.

- **Women's economic empowerment**

The foundation supports women through skills training, small business support, savings groups, income-generating activities, and leadership opportunities.

- **Youth development**

SONAFO promotes youth participation in development through training, entrepreneurship, environmental action, innovation, and employment opportunities.

- **Entrepreneurship support**

This includes helping individuals and groups develop business ideas, access skills, improve management, and create sustainable income sources.

- **Skills development**

SONAFO provides practical training in agriculture, livestock, fisheries, business, leadership, environmental protection, and community development.

- **Social inclusion**

The foundation ensures that marginalized groups are included in programs, decision-making, and access to services.

- **Leadership development**

SONAFO supports community leaders, women, youth, and local institutions to improve leadership, accountability, and participation.

- **Community resilience strengthening**

This focuses on improving the ability of communities to handle shocks, solve local problems, and build sustainable livelihoods.

Sector 8: Research, Projects, Policy and Institutional Development

SONAFO uses research, evidence, project management, and institutional strengthening to improve development outcomes. This sector supports quality programming, informed decision-making, accountability, and long-term organizational capacity.

- **Research and assessments**

SONAFO conducts studies, needs assessments, baseline surveys, environmental assessments, and community research to understand problems and design better solutions.

- **Project design and management**

The foundation develops and manages projects that respond to community needs, donor priorities, and national development goals.

- **Policy analysis**

SONAFO reviews policies and provides recommendations related to environment, climate change, agriculture, livestock, water, fisheries, and community development.

- **Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning**

SONAFO tracks project performance, measures results, collects feedback, ensures accountability, and uses lessons learned to improve future programs.

- **Knowledge management**

The organization documents experiences, success stories, research findings, training materials, and lessons learned for wider sharing and learning.

- **Capacity development**

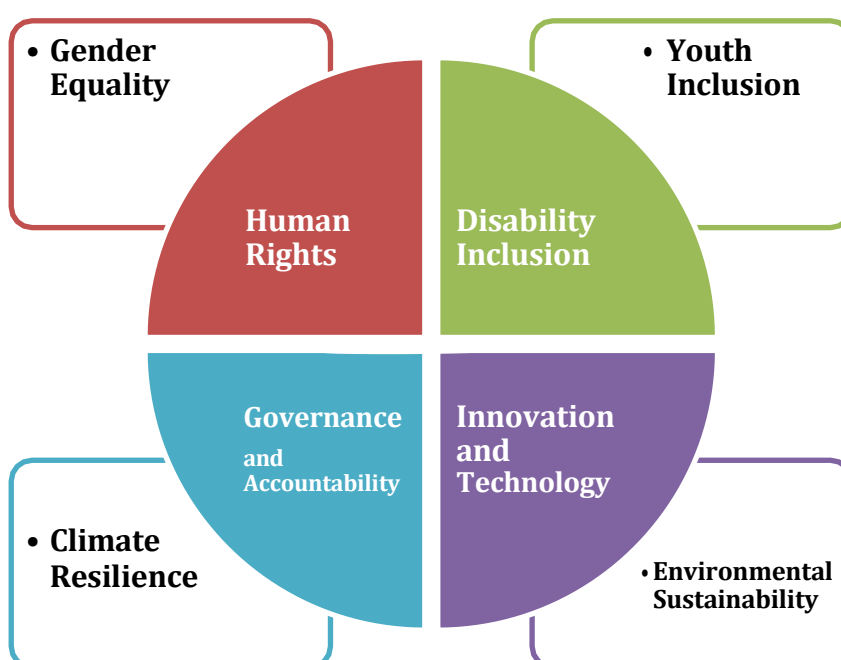
SONAFO strengthens the skills of staff, communities, local institutions, civil society groups, and partners through training and mentoring.

- **Institutional strengthening**

SONAFO provides technical support to communities, institutions, and partners in areas such as environment, agriculture, livestock, water, fisheries, resilience, and project management.

Strategic Sectors

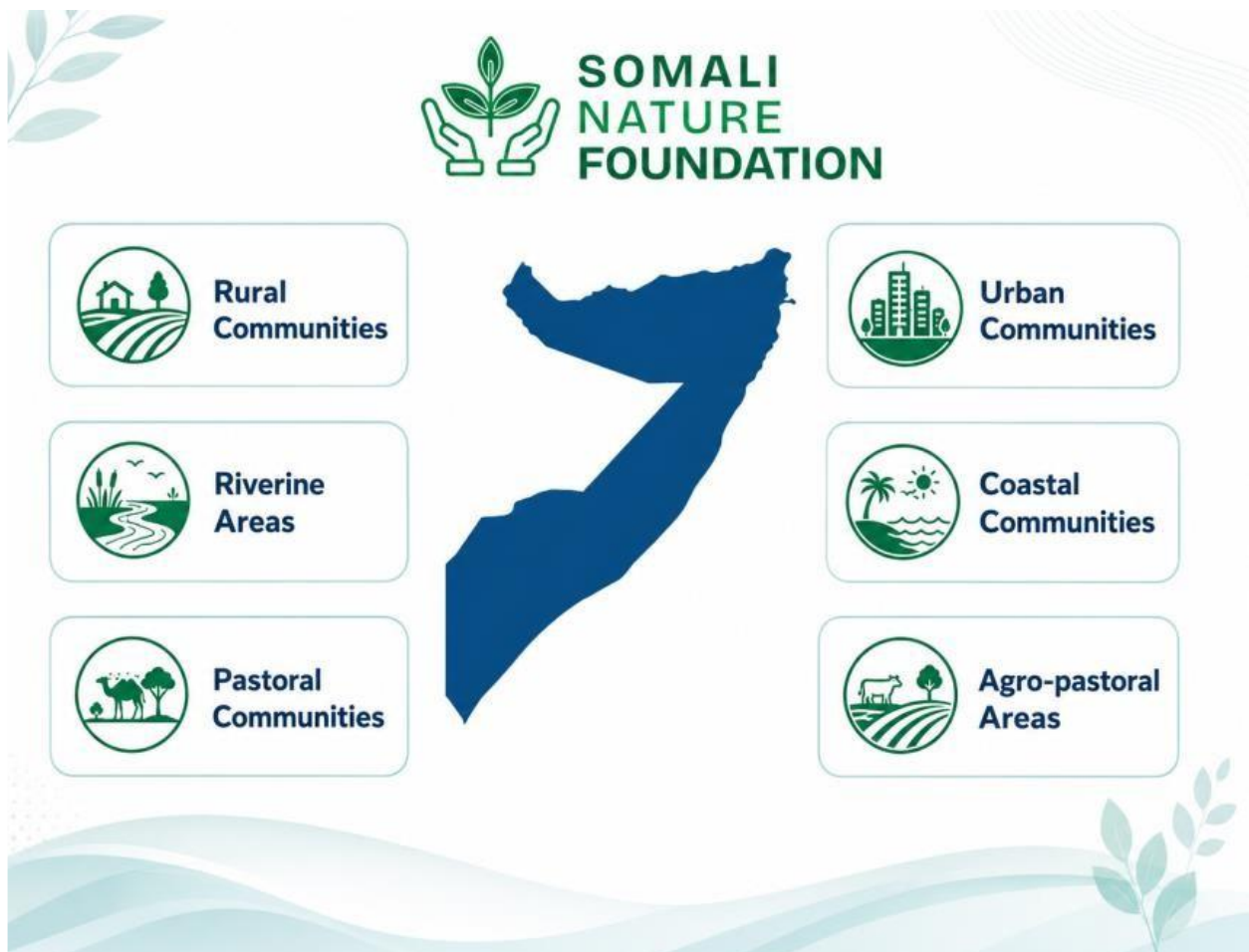
SONAFO applies these cross-cutting themes across all programs to make sure its work is inclusive, fair, transparent, and sustainable. The themes connect social protection, environmental responsibility, good governance, innovation, gender equality, youth participation, climate resilience, and disability inclusion, helping every project respond to community needs while creating long-term positive change.



Geographic Coverage

SONAFO's geographic focus reflects its commitment to serving communities across Somalia's diverse landscapes and livelihood systems. By working in rural, urban, riverine, coastal, pastoral, and agro-pastoral areas, SONAFO is able to address different local challenges and opportunities.

This coverage supports community-based solutions in environmental protection, climate resilience, food security, water access, livestock development, coastal livelihoods, and inclusive development.



Partnerships and Collaboration

SONAFO collaborates with:

- **Government Institutions**
- **United Nations Agencies**
- **International NGOs**
- **National NGOs**
- **Academic and Research Institutions**
- **Community-Based Organizations**
- **Private Sector Actors**
- **Development Partners and Donors**



Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

SONAFO contributes to:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ● SDG 1 – No Poverty | ● SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth |
| ● SDG 2 – Zero Hunger | ● SDG 13 – Climate Action |
| ● SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being | ● SDG 14 – Life Below Water |
| ● SDG 5 – Gender Equality | ● SDG 15 – Life on Land |
| ● SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation | ● SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals |



Closing Statement

Somali Nature Foundation (SONAFO) is committed to building a sustainable future where healthy ecosystems support resilient communities and inclusive economic growth. Through environmental stewardship, humanitarian action, sustainable livelihoods, research, and strategic partnerships, SONAFO contributes to a greener, stronger, and more prosperous Somalia.

Contact

For more information, partnership inquiries, or collaboration opportunities, you can contact SONAFO through the official email and communication channels provided below.

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Established

2025

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