



INSTITUTE OF
CLIMATE AND
ENVIRONMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



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Forward by the Rector

Somalia faces the increasingly complex challenges of climate change, environmental degradation, and sustainability. In response, ICE has emerged as a pioneering institution, driving research, policy advocacy, and capacity-building efforts. Over the past year, ICE has made remarkable strides in empowering youth, fostering partnerships, and advancing knowledge to build a greener and more resilient Somalia.

One of the defining moments of 2024 was the Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) Somalia, where 150+ young climate leaders gathered to draft and adopt the first-ever National Youth Statement on Climate Action. This landmark achievement solidifies the role of youth in shaping Somalia's climate policies and global climate discourse. Similarly, the Climate Change Symposium and Mogadishu Environmental Summit convened diverse stakeholders, culminating in policy recommendations and action-driven dialogues that will shape Somalia's sustainability trajectory.

In research and academia, ICE has continued to expand its influence, publishing peer-reviewed studies on climate resilience, food security, and environmental governance. The launch of the Knowledge Portal for Climate Action marks another milestone, providing data-driven insights and policy tools to support evidence-based climate decision-making in Somalia.

As we look ahead to 2025, ICE remains steadfast in its commitment to:

- Scaling impactful research and innovation.
- Strengthening community-centred climate action initiatives.
- Expanding strategic partnerships to drive climate resilience.
- Influencing policy for sustainable environmental governance.

The report outlines our strategic activities this year - all achieved in collaboration and partnership partners and stakeholders. We appreciate to the ICE team, our partners, donors, and the community who have contributed to this incredible journey. The challenges ahead are great, but so is our collective resolve to create a sustainable and climate-resilient future for Somalia and beyond.



Dr. Abdikarim Mohaidin Ahmed
Rector, SIMAD University

Note from the Director

I am pleased to present the 2024 Annual Report of the Institute of Climate and Environment (ICE)—a year defined by groundbreaking achievements, youth empowerment, and global recognition. As we reflect on this journey, I am deeply inspired by the impact we have made together.

This year, ICE has:

- Trained and mentored over 150 youth leaders through initiatives like the Climate Justice Incubator and UNLEASH Hack Somalia, equipping them with tools to lead climate action in their communities.
- Organized high-impact forums such as the Climate Change Symposium, Mogadishu Environmental Summit, and Climate Conversation Series, fostering cross-sector dialogue on climate resilience and sustainability.
- Expanded research and knowledge-sharing through peer-reviewed publications, the Sustainability Scholars Program, and the Knowledge Portal for Climate Action, ensuring that data-driven solutions shape Somalia's climate policies.
- Represented Somalia at COP29 in Azerbaijan, engaging with global leaders, researchers, and climate advocates to strengthen Somalia's position on climate governance and finance.
- Built strategic partnerships with UNATMIS, Oxfam Somalia, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, and the Ministry of Youth and Sports, amplifying our collective impact.

This report is one of our ways of communicating our impact. It offers you a snapshot of our collective impact in 2024 and invites you to cooperate and partner with us to protect the people and the planet for prosperity.

Finally, I want to express my sincere appreciation to the management of SIMAD University, the ICE team, our partners, and stakeholders for their unwavering support and commitment. None of this would be possible without your collaboration and dedication to our shared vision for the future.



Mohamed Okash
Director, Institute of Climate
and Environment (ICE)
SIMAD University

1 Executive Summary

The 2024 Annual Report of the Institute of Climate and Environment (ICE) highlights a year of impactful initiatives and notable achievements in climate action, research, and community engagement. Guided by our mission to foster sustainability and resilience in Somalia, ICE has successfully implemented programs that have empowered youth, advanced knowledge, and forged strategic partnerships.

A key milestone was the successful Climate Change Symposium, which brought together over 200 stakeholders from government, academia, civil society, and the private sector. The symposium culminated in the adoption of a Position Paper that outlined actionable recommendations for advancing climate resilience and justice in Somalia, marking a significant policy development.

The Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) Somalia 2024 was another landmark achievement, engaging over 150 youth delegates from diverse regions. For the first time in Somalia, the conference adopted a National Youth Statement on Climate Action, integrating youth perspectives into critical climate issues.

This statement serves as a foundational document for shaping Somalia's youth-driven climate agenda. Also, Mogadishu Environmental Summit, which convened over 200 stakeholders to address climate justice and adopted a summit communique. ICE spearheaded youth empowerment programs such as the Climate Justice Incubator and UNLEASH Hack Somalia, equipping over 150 participants with

the skills and tools to lead community-based climate actions. Through the Green Champions Program, students actively participated in sustainability campaigns, reinforcing their roles as changemakers.

On the global stage, ICE proudly represented Somalia at COP29 in Azerbaijan, showcasing locally driven climate solutions and expanding our international network through new partnerships. The year also saw the publication of peer-reviewed research, the launch of the Sustainability Scholars Program, and the development of the Knowledge Portal for Climate Action, furthering our commitment to evidence-based policy and education.

Strategic cooperations and partnerships have been a cornerstone of ICE's success, with collaborations established with UNATMIS, Oxfam Somalia, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Youth and Sports of Federal Government of Somalia. These partnerships have amplified ICE's ability to address pressing environmental challenges while fostering inclusive and actionable climate strategies.

As ICE advances toward 2025, the focus will remain on expanding youth-led initiatives, enhancing knowledge-sharing platforms, and deepening partnerships to achieve climate resilience and sustainability. This report is a testament to ICE's commitment to fostering innovation and building a greener, more sustainable future for Somalia.

2 About ICE Institute

Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission

To build a sustainable and greener Somalia by addressing climate, environmental, and developmental challenges through impactful research, policy advocacy, and capacity building.



Vision

To become a globally recognized center for climate and environmental research and advocacy, fostering resilience and sustainability.



Values

Integrity, Innovation, Inclusivity, and Impact.



Strategic Objectives (2023–2025)

ICE's strategic objectives for the 2023–2025 period focus on three main pillars:



Equip ICE for Impact:

Building institutional capacity to deliver transformative solutions.



Build a Network of Partners:

Strengthening collaborations locally and internationally.



Catalyze for Change

Advancing innovative solutions and driving evidence-based policy interventions.

Our Team

The ICE team comprises experts in geospatial analysis, climate finance, and sustainable development. Their diverse expertise enables holistic solutions to environmental challenges.



Mohamed Okash Sugow



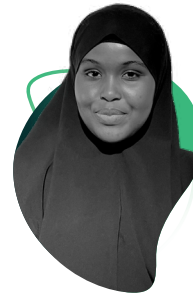
Abdikafi Hassan Abdi



Samira Abdulkadir Adan



Liban Hassan Mohamed



Aisha Abdikarim

Fellows and Advisors



Dr Ulrike



Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim



Abdishakur Ahmed

Green Champions



Sucdi Nor



Abdifatah Mohamed



Amiira Mahamud



Abdiwahid Abdullahi



Ikram Ahmed



Abdirahim Ali



Shayma Nur



Muhsin Ahmed



Jumana Hassan



Omar Mohamed

3. 2024 Key Achievements

I. Empowering Community for Climate Action

A. UNLEASH

Impact Report: UNLEASH Hack Somalia 2024

The UNLEASH Hack Somalia, organized by the Institute of Climate Change and Environment at SIMAD University and sponsored by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), took place on August 14-15, 2024. This hack marked the first time such an event was hosted in Somalia, bringing together young innovators to tackle critical environmental and climate challenges.

Hosted in SIMAD University's main campus, the hack was a transformative assembly that galvanized the youth to engage directly with pressing environmental and climate issues that affect their communities and the country at large. The hack's objective was clear: to harness the dynamic potential of young Somali innovators and provide them with a platform to conceptualize and pitch viable solutions to real-world problems, specifically targeting the Sustainable Development Goals related to climate action, life below water, and life on land. Over the course of two intensive days, the event drew together 37+ participants, including students, young

professionals, and aspiring individuals from across fields. These participants were chosen for their passion, innovative spirit and for their potential to act as catalysts for change within their communities. The hack provided them with a rare opportunity to collaborate, learn from seasoned facilitators, and engage in critical thinking and problem-solving in a supportive yet challenging environment.

By bringing this hack to Somalia for the first time, the ICE Institute aimed to ignite a spark of sustainable development and environmental stewardship among the youth. The UNLEASH Hack Somalia was envisioned as a starting point for building a resilient network of future leaders committed to making a tangible difference in the face of global environmental challenges. This event not only highlighted the urgent need for innovative solutions but also showcased the untapped talent and enthusiasm present in Somalia for tackling such issues head-on.

Key Innovations

The hackathon resulted in seven groundbreaking projects, showcasing innovative approaches to climate resilience:

The infographic consists of seven white rectangular cards arranged in a grid. Each card features a green speech bubble icon with a white number indicating the step. The text on each card describes a specific project. The cards are: Step 01: ITOSO (hydroelectric dam); Step 02: Green Eco (charcoal briquettes); Step 03: Life Savers (drought-resistant seeds); Step 04: Badma (portable water cleaners); Step 05: Degaansan (plastic waste management); Step 06: Afro (educational campaigns); Step 07: Wadajir (sandstorm stabilization).

- STEP 01**
ITOSO
A hydroelectric dam project for flood control and renewable energy generation in Beledweyne.
- STEP 02**
Green Eco
Eco-friendly charcoal briquettes as a sustainable alternative to traditional charcoal.
- STEP 03**
Life Savers
Drought-resistant seeds and training programs for improved agricultural resilience.
- STEP 04**
Badma
Portable water cleaners for safe drinking water in underserved communities.
- STEP 05**
Degaansan
A plastic waste management initiative focused on recycling and sustainability.
- STEP 06**
Afro
Educational campaigns targeting deforestation in rural areas.
- STEP 07**
Wadajir
Sandstorm stabilization using GIS and windbreak technologies.



Impact Highlights



Youth Empowerment

Participants were equipped with critical thinking and problem-solving skills, fostering a new generation of environmental leaders.



Sustainability Integration

The hackathon set a benchmark by eliminating single-use plastics and incorporating artistic activism to inspire innovation.



Actionable Solutions

Winning projects addressed local challenges with scalable and sustainable strategies, including renewable energy, water purification, and waste management.

The ICE Institute is committed to supporting the winning teams through mentorship, resource mobilization, and partnerships. Plans include scaling these solutions for wider community impact and hosting future hackathons to sustain the momentum for climate action in Somalia. UNLEASH Hack Somalia demonstrated the power of youth-driven innovation in addressing

local and global challenges. By fostering collaboration and creativity, this event reinforced Somalia's potential to achieve sustainable development goals through homegrown solutions. The success of the hackathon paves the way for continued efforts in building a resilient and climate-conscious Somalia.



B. Climate Justice Incubator

Climate change poses a significant threat to Somalia, impacting its environment, economy, and communities. In response to these challenges, the ICE Institute at SIMAD University launched the Climate Justice Incubator in collaboration with Oxfam Somalia to build local capacity for climate action and advocacy. This initiative aligns with ICE Institute's mission to promote sustainable development and resilience in Somalia. The Climate Justice Incubator was designed to address the specific needs of young people who are eager to contribute to climate justice but lack

the resources and training to do so effectively. By providing a structured program that includes training, mentorship, and project development, the incubator aimed to empower participants to become leaders in their communities and advocates for climate justice. This report provides a comprehensive overview of the Climate Justice Incubator, detailing its objectives, program design, participant selection, training modules, and outcomes. It also highlights the successes and challenges of the program and offers recommendations for future improvements.



Program Design and Structure

The training curriculum was designed with a focus on three main areas: Climate Justice Essentials, Leadership Skills, and Climate Storytelling. These topics were carefully selected to empower participants to better advocate for climate justice in Somalia. The Climate Justice Essentials modules provided foundational knowledge on environmental issues, the impact of climate change on Somalia, and the concept of climate justice. Leadership Skills modules aimed to develop participants' abilities to lead climate action initiatives within their communities. The Climate Storytelling component taught participants how to effectively communicate climate issues through various media, enhancing their advocacy efforts.



Curriculum Design and Delivery Methods

The curriculum was specifically tailored to address the unique climate justice challenges faced in Somalia. The goal was to prepare young leaders who can effectively advocate for environmental justice and mobilize their communities for climate action. The training was delivered primarily through a workshop-based format, emphasizing active participation and engagement. Participants took part in group discussions, hands-on activities, and collaborative projects, ensuring they played a significant role in the learning process.



Training Location and Schedule

The training took place at the ICE Institute, SIMAD University, with sessions held every Saturday and Sunday from July 20 to August 28, 2024. The program was accessible to participants from both urban and rural areas, ensuring diverse regional representation.



Participant Selection Criteria

Participants were selected through an open application process announced on the ICE Institute's social media platforms and website. From July 6 to 13, 2024, a total of 300 applications were received. The selection process was designed to be inclusive, encouraging applications from individuals of various ages, genders, and regions to foster a diverse cohort of climate justice advocates. The Climate Justice Certification Ceremony not only celebrated the achievements of these young leaders but also marked the beginning of their journey as environmental advocates in Somalia. With their newly acquired skills and knowledge, these participants are now better prepared to champion climate justice and drive positive change within their communities.



Orientation and onboarding

On July 20th, 2024, the ICE Institute kicked off the Climate Justice Incubator program with an engaging orientation session that welcomed 120 enthusiastic young individuals from over ten universities in Mogadishu. This event marked the beginning of a significant journey for these future climate leaders. The orientation was



initiated by Mr. Mohamed Okash, Director of the ICE Institute, who expressed his excitement and pride in the diverse group of participants, emphasizing their crucial role in advancing Somalia towards a more sustainable and just future. Ustaad Abdikafi and Liban Hassan followed with insightful presentations on the program's goals, highlighting the critical importance of climate justice in Somalia, a country particularly vulnerable to climate change. Their addresses inspired the attendees, reinforcing the power of youth in leading the charge for a just transition. The Climate Justice Incubator, a joint effort between Oxfam Somalia and the

ICE Institute, aims to equip participants with essential knowledge and skills across three core areas: understanding climate justice, developing leadership capabilities, and mastering storytelling to advocate effectively for climate action. As the orientation concluded, there was a palpable sense of excitement and determination among the participants, who are now poised to embark on a transformative journey to address Somalia's pressing climate challenges. The ICE Institute is dedicated to supporting these emerging leaders with the necessary resources, mentorship, and platforms to drive meaningful change.

Certification and Graduation

The culmination of the Climate Justice Incubator was celebrated with a formal certification ceremony held at the ICE Institute on August 28, 2024. This event marked the successful completion of the program for 110 participants, who were awarded certificates recognizing their dedication to climate justice and their contributions to community-based projects. The ceremony featured reflections from three participants—Mohamed Omar, Iftin Omar, and Saida Maslas—who shared their personal journeys and the transformative impact of the program on their growth. Ms. Hafsa Omar, Director of Climate Change, delivered a motivating closing remark, urging participants to leverage the skills they had acquired to further advocate for

climate justice in Somalia. Abdiftah Ibrahim, Area Manager of Oxfam, also spoke, commending the participants and highlighting potential opportunities for ongoing collaboration. The ceremony included presentations of community-based projects developed by participants, showcasing their innovative solutions and receiving feedback from experts and peers. The event concluded with a networking session, allowing participants to celebrate their achievements and discuss future opportunities with mentors and guests. This graduation phase not only recognized the participants' hard work but also reinforced the incubator's success in cultivating a new generation of climate leaders.

C. Green Champions- Class of 2024

On 12th August 2024, in the commomeration of International Youth Day, we announced Green Champions Class of 2024 has been selected! This remarkable group of passionate, driven students will be at the forefront of sustainability efforts at SIMAD University. The Green Champions, an initiative of the Institute of Climate and Environment (ICE), is a dedicated student volunteer club committed to promoting environmental sustainability and climate action within our community and beyond.

The Green Champions Class of 2024 brings together a diverse cohort of individuals who share a common goal: to build a greener, more sustainable

future for Somalia. These students will participate in projects and campaigns, focusing on environmental awareness, community outreach, and innovative solutions to local climate challenges.

Throughout the year, the Green Champions will receives specialized training, mentorship, and access to valuable resources, empowering them to make a lasting impact on our university and the wider community. Their efforts will align with national and international frameworks such as the Somali National Youth Development Plan, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Paris Agreement.



D. Training on Climate Change and Disability Inclusion

Between December 28, 2024, and January 1, 2025, a series of workshops on climate change and disability inclusion were conducted in Mogadishu, Baidoa, and Dhuusamareeb. These workshops, facilitated by Mohamed Okash in Mogadishu, Liban Hassan in Baidoa, and Abdikafi Hassan in Dhuusamareeb, were organized by the UNTMIS Human Rights & Protection Group (HRPG/OHCHR). The initiative aimed to build the capacity of organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) to advocate for disability-inclusive climate action and policies. This effort was part of a broader mission to address the disproportionate impacts of climate change on vulnerable groups, particularly persons with disabilities in Somalia.

The workshops focused on equipping OPDs with knowledge and tools to promote inclusive climate action. Participants were introduced to a human rights-based approach to climate policies, explored the integration of disability inclusion in Somalia's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and received training on leveraging media and social media for effective advocacy. The sessions also emphasized actionable strategies to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities in climate-related decision-making processes.

Each workshop spanned three days and followed a structured agenda. The first day introduced participants to the intersection of human rights and disability inclusion in climate action, with discussions on the challenges faced by persons with disabilities during climate-related disasters. The second day focused on the impacts of climate change on persons with disabilities, drawing insights from global success stories and exploring practical strategies for inclusive climate policies. The final day highlighted Somalia's commitments under the Paris Agreement, with hands-on training in crafting impactful advocacy messages for media and social media. The training provided participants with a deeper understanding of the intersectionality between climate change and disability, emphasizing the critical role of inclusive policies. Participants gained valuable insights into Somalia's NDCs and their potential for advancing disability inclusion in national climate strategies. Practical tools for media and social media advocacy empowered participants to amplify their voices and engage effectively with stakeholders. The workshops marked a significant step in fostering disability-inclusive climate action in Somalia, showcasing the potential of such capacity-building initiatives to drive meaningful change.

Thought Leadership and Dialogue

I. The Local Conference of Youth LOCY 2024

The Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) Somalia 2024 marked a transformative milestone in youth-led climate action within Somalia, a country deeply vulnerable to climate change. Held over two days on August 27–28, 2024, at JAVA Hall in Mogadishu, the event brought together over 150 young delegates selected from more than 1,000 applications. These participants represented diverse regions and backgrounds, ensuring inclusivity, with a strong focus on gender equity, rural youth, and marginalized communities. The conference theme, “A Sustainable Future Powered by Youth,” highlighted the critical role of Somali youth in driving climate resilience and sustainable development.

LCOY Somalia 2024 aimed to empower Somali youth as proactive agents of change by fostering leadership, knowledge-sharing, and capacity building. The conference provided a platform for collaboration among intergovernmental bodies, youth-led organizations, and academic institutions. It also created opportunities for dialogue and networking, allowing young people to actively shape Somalia’s climate action agenda. The program included a broad range of activities, such as panel discussions on the National Adaptation Plan and the Blue Economy, workshops on climate mobility and health, and masterclasses on climate negotiations

and capacity building. Delegates contributed to drafting a National Youth Statement (NYS) on Climate Action, which consolidated their collective vision for a sustainable and climate-resilient Somalia.

The organizing team, comprising six key organizations including the Institute of Climate and Environment Somalia (ICE), Somalia Youth Hub, and Puntland Sustainable Agri-livestock Network (PUSAN), worked tirelessly over 12 weeks to plan and execute the event. Their efforts were supported by 15 volunteers who assisted with registration, logistics, and social media engagement.

The conference was designed with inclusivity at its core, incorporating accommodations for people with disabilities and prioritizing themes relevant to underrepresented groups. For instance, workshops addressed the impacts of climate change on conflict, displacement, and agricultural livelihoods. Over 300 participants engaged in meaningful dialogue, with many citing the inspirational youth stories and actionable solutions presented as highlights. Interactive sessions also introduced strategies like leveraging ICT for agricultural sustainability and data tracking for greenhouse gas emissions, equipping delegates with tools to address real-world challenges.

Although the event faced logistical and funding challenges, including late venue booking and limited financial support for delegates from federal regions, it successfully amplified the voices of Somali youth on a national stage. The social media campaigns, supported by platforms like Facebook and Instagram, further extended the conference's reach, engaging online audiences and fostering wider community involvement.

LCOY Somalia 2024 exemplified the

power of youth-led initiatives to drive meaningful change. By empowering over 150 young leaders, facilitating the creation of a comprehensive NYS, and fostering partnerships among key stakeholders, the conference has laid a solid foundation for future climate action in Somalia. The insights and strategies developed during LCOY Somalia 2024 will continue to inform and inspire initiatives, reinforcing the pivotal role of youth in building a sustainable and resilient future.



II. Climate Change Symposium

The Climate Change Symposium held in Mogadishu on September 22, 2024, was organized and implemented by ICE Institute with the support of United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSAM). It aimed to tackle Somalia's most pressing climate issues by bringing stakeholders together for awareness, collaboration, and policy advocacy. The central goal was to advocate for the development of climate action policies grounded in local realities and human rights-based principles and to encourage cross-sector collaboration, and contribute to policy changes aligning with Somalia's climate-resilient growth strategies. The event created dialogue between local and international entities to drive climate resilience, fostering knowledge-sharing platforms, and emphasizing the importance of integrated and sustainable approaches to climate action.

One of the primary objectives of the symposium was to increase collaboration among stakeholders, including government bodies, international organizations, private sectors, and civil society, to ensure climate resilience becomes a cornerstone of Somalia's development agenda. Enhancing cooperation between these entities is critical, as climate resilience cannot be achieved by one sector alone. The event sought to encourage partnerships and collaborations that would support Somalia's journey toward sustainable development, and address climate vulnerabilities exacerbated by droughts, floods, and food insecurity.

Another key objective was to strengthen the understanding of climate finance mechanisms. With Somalia needing an estimated \$16 billion for climate-related actions over the next six years, there is a pressing need for innovative climate financing. The symposium provided a platform for stakeholders to discuss financing gaps, explore alternative funding sources, and promote investment in green projects that would drive long-term climate resilience.

Additionally, the event sought to promote youth-driven, locally led, and rights-based climate actions. Given Somalia's predominantly youthful population, youth engagement in climate action is paramount. The symposium also aimed to inspire young people to take the lead in locally driven climate adaptation efforts, leveraging their innovative potential to bring about real change. The event emphasized the need for inclusion and equity into climate actions, ensuring that marginalized communities are not left behind in the nation's climate responses. Overall, the event's objectives reflected a comprehensive approach to climate resilience, ensuring collaboration, financing, youth empowerment, and rights-based policies were at the forefront of discussions.

The Climate Change Symposium held at Jazeera Hotel in Mogadishu on September 22, 2024, brought together a diverse group of over 200 participants, representing various sectors integral to climate action in Somalia.

This multi-stakeholder engagement highlighted the broad-based approach necessary for tackling climate issues, especially in a country as vulnerable as Somalia. The diversity of participants enriched the discussions and helped formulate holistic approaches to address the climate crisis.

In terms of gender distribution, the symposium achieved a fairly balanced representation with 57% male and 43% female participants. However, the event organizers recognized the need for further efforts to elevate female engagement and leadership in future climate-related discussions. Engaging women is essential, as they are disproportionately affected by climate change impacts yet play a vital role in community resilience and adaptation strategies.

The sectoral breakdown of participants further illustrated the breadth of the event. Academia and research institutions accounted for 20% of attendees, underscoring the importance of evidence-based approaches to climate action. Researchers from SIMAD University and other institutions played key roles in presenting data-driven insights that are critical for informed decision-making. Youth groups represented the largest demographic at the symposium, making up 25% of the participants. The engagement of young people, drawn from youth-led environmental organizations, reinforced the message of ensuring the representation of future generations and that the future of climate action lies in the hands of the younger generation, who must be empowered to lead Somalia's long-term climate

resilience efforts.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society groups made up 15% of the attendees, bringing grassroots perspectives to the discussions. Organizations like SOS Children's Village Somalia and Somalia Non-state Actors SONSA emphasized the importance of community-level interventions and *equal representation that gives a significant voice to people from a variety of population groups and particularly, to members of discriminated groups* in building climate resilience. Government agencies, representing 10% of participants, included high-level figures from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC), the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and the Somali Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA). Their participation was crucial in highlighting the government's commitment to embedding climate resilience in national policies. Private sector entities, such as Premier Bank and Hormuud, represented 5% of attendees and showcased the growing importance of the business community in shaping climate adaptation and green investment strategies. International organizations, including WFP, FOA, IGAD, and UNSOM, made up 8% of the participants, bringing global expertise and resources to support Somalia's climate efforts. This sectoral diversity was essential for fostering meaningful dialogue and collaboration across all levels of society.



The Climate Change Symposium began with opening speeches from key figures, setting the tone for the event's focus on collaboration, policy advancement, and actionable solutions. Dr. Abdikarim Mihaidin Ahmed, Rector of SIMAD University, delivered a powerful speech highlighting the university's role in spearheading climate action in Somalia through the Institute of Climate and Environment (ICE). He emphasized the necessity of academia's involvement in addressing Somalia's climate challenges and praised the progress made by the Somali government in these efforts. Dr. Abdikarim also extended his gratitude to UNSOM for their collaboration with the ICE Institute, reinforcing the significance of international partnerships.

"I hope the insights from the discussions and presentations of the symposium will shape the policy interventions in climate action for the long-term and pave for sustainable development in Somalia" - Dr Abdikarim Mohaidin, Rector, SIMAD University



H.E. Ahmed Omar Mohamed, State Minister of Environment and Climate Change, also delivered a keynote speech, highlighting Somalia's bold steps towards climate action. He shared insights on the government's whole-of-government approach to addressing climate change, focusing on initiatives like the Green Somalia strategy the finalization of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the adoption of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). His call for more coordinated efforts between sectors and stakeholders resonated with the symposium's overall objective of fostering collaboration.

"Climate change is not a future event; it is a current threat that has to be tackled collectively through a common agenda, cooperation and insightful policy decision informed by evidence"

H.E. Ahmed Omar Mohamed, State Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Federal Government of Somalia



George Conway, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (UNSOM) and Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator provided a keynote address focusing on how the United Nations integrates human rights and sustainable development principles in tackling climate change in Somalia. He stressed that climate action should leave no one behind, emphasizing the critical link between human rights and environmental sustainability. His address reinforced the importance of international support in helping Somalia navigate its complex climate challenges.

“Addressing the climate crisis for what it is addressing the human rights crisis; the right to life, the right food, the right to health, the right to water and, the right to sanitation. And we need to put human rights very much at the center of discussion and discourse and the work that we do for Somalia on the climate Agenda” - George Conway, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (UNSOM) and Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator



Mr. Yusuf Abdirahman Samatar, The Director General of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change also addressed the symposium, emphasizing the ministry's ongoing efforts to collaborate with academic institutions like SIMAD University to develop innovative solutions to climate change. He underlined that tackling climate issues requires a multi-stakeholder approach, with academia playing a critical role in advancing climate research and fostering evidence-based policy recommendations.

The Director General expressed satisfaction with the progress the ministry has made in improving climate governance in Somalia, citing initiatives aimed at enhancing coordination among government agencies, international partners, and local communities. He reiterated the ministry's commitment to working closely with institutions like ICE to push forward practical and scalable climate adaptation strategies that meet the country's unique challenges.



Hon. Mohamed Barre, Minister of Youth and Sports, addressed the symposium by emphasizing the vital role of youth in leading climate action in Somalia. He noted how crucial it is to place young people at the centre of climate discussions, recognizing them as champions of climate resilience. The Minister highlighted that his ministry has taken active steps to integrate climate change into the National Youth Policy, thereby empowering youth to play a central role in shaping the country's climate agenda.

Hon. Barre praised the role of the Institute of Climate and Environment (ICE) at SIMAD University for their remarkable efforts in addressing climate challenges through research, capacity building, and advocacy. He particularly commended ICE for organizing recent events such as LCOY Somalia and the Summit of the Future Consultations, both of which served as platforms for youth to actively engage in climate action. The Minister concluded by reaffirming the government's commitment to creating more opportunities for young people to lead on environmental and climate issues.

"We prioritized the climate agenda at our recent National Youth Policy so young people lead the way of climate action" - Hon. Mohamed Bare, Minister, MoYS

Presentations

Several key presentations were made at a symposium which showcased insights from experts and policymakers on Somalia's climate challenges and solutions. Covering topics such as food

security, climate finance, and national security threats, the presentations highlighted research-driven strategies for climate resilience.



Saleem Ullah
International Climate
Change Specialist,
UN FAO

Presentation Topic: Climate Change Impact on Agriculture and Food Security in Somalia

Saleem Ullah, a renowned climate change specialist from FAO Somalia, delivered a presentation focused on the growing link between climate change and conflict in Somalia, emphasizing how environmental degradation exacerbates instability. It highlights the UN's recognition of climate risks such as drought, desertification, and floods, which contribute to resource competition, displacement, and insecurity. Climate projections for Somalia suggest rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, and

reduced water availability, which are likely to intensify these challenges. The presentation stresses the need for integrated disaster response strategies and peacekeeping operations informed by climate security. It also discusses pathways through which climate change impacts livelihoods, migration, and armed groups' control over natural resources while advocating for nature-based solutions and enhanced institutional capacity to manage climate risks and foster resilience in vulnerable communities.





Mohamed Okash
Founding Director,
ICE Institute

Presentation Topic:
**Position Paper on Climate Action and
Adaptation in Somalia**

Mohamed Okash, the founding director of the Institute of Climate and Environment (ICE), presented the position paper that outlines the urgent need for a new, inclusive climate action paradigm in Somalia. It emphasizes the existential threat posed by severe climate events, including droughts, floods, land degradation, and biodiversity loss, which disproportionately affect Somalia despite its minimal contribution to global emissions. Somalia's predominantly agricultural economy is highly vulnerable to climate variability, worsening food insecurity and displacement. Also, the paper addressed the challenges faced by local communities, the necessity of rights-based and locally led approaches, and emphasized the importance of aligning with international climate frameworks such as the Paris Agreement. Okash stressed the role of marginalized groups

including people with disabilities in driving climate action and called for increased partnerships between government bodies, private institutions, and the academic sector.

Current climate action efforts include government initiatives, such as the establishment of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) in 2022 and the adoption of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). However, challenges like fragmented efforts, ineffective policy implementation, and funding gaps persist. The presentation proposes key recommendations, including improved government coordination, stakeholder collaboration, better data collection, and promotion of climate education. It also stresses the need for human rights-based approaches and traditional knowledge systems in climate resilience efforts.



The Position Paper concluded with a call for necessary support for civil society organizations and academic institutions working on climate change, and their recognition as significant partners to lift Somalia to the new, holistic climate action paradigm that is locally led, rights-based, and adaptive to the country's desperate climate change challenges. It also called for

greater coordination, with emphasis on creation of equal representation, giving a significant voice to people from all population groups and particularly, to members of discriminated groups, and ensuring the representation of future generations to fulfil the overarching principles of inclusivity in the thrust to leave no one behind in Somalia.



Dr. Abdullahi Khalif
Senior Principal
Advisor, Ministry of
Environment and
Climate Change

Presentation Topic:
**Somalia's Strategies to Convert Climate
Finance Challenges into Opportunities –
the Role of Somalia's Nationally Determined
Contributions (NDC).**

Dr Abdullahi Khalif presented an insightful discussion on Somalia's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and their potential to transform the country's climate finance challenges into opportunities. He explained how innovative financial mechanisms and international partnerships can help Somalia achieve its climate goals. He emphasized the need for strategic alignment between Somalia's NDC commitments and global climate finance opportunities to enhance resilience efforts and meet funding targets. His presentation also outlined strategies for scaling climate finance across key sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure, and energy.

His presentation, "Somalia's Strategies to Convert Climate Finance Challenges into Opportunities", delivered at the

Climate Symposium 2024, outlines Somalia's approach to addressing climate finance obstacles. The presentation focuses on how the country's NDCs are crucial to transforming these challenges into opportunities for resilience and growth. Key points include Somalia's historical difficulties in accessing climate finance due to fragility, lack of bankable projects, and stringent requirements of funds like the Green Climate Fund (GCF). However, progress has been made through the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC), which has developed a five-year strategy identifying key sectors for investment, such as agriculture, energy, water, and infrastructure, with a total need of \$7.5 billion by 2030.

The presentation emphasizes Somalia's steps to secure climate finance by strengthening institutional capacities, finalizing the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), and engaging global platforms like the Climate Finance Task Force. It highlights several ongoing projects, including sustainable charcoal reduction and solar energy system installations. Looking ahead, Somalia aims to develop NDC 3.0, which will

enhance climate action by focusing on building robust governance, and multi stakeholder engagement, and implementing strong Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems. Somalia is preparing to align its strategies with global goals such as the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG), aiming for increased climate finance mobilization to meet the Paris Agreement targets.



Dr. Abdullahi Muse
Director, Health
Department, Somali
Disaster Management
Agency (SODMA)

Presentation Topic:
**Deyr Floods 2023: Rapid Post-Disaster
Needs Assessment (RP-DNA) in Somalia**

Dr. Abdullahi Muse, the Director of the Health Department of SODMA provided a critical analysis of the 2023 Deyr floods that devastated parts of Somalia. His presentation focused on the agency's rapid post-disaster needs assessment and the impacts of flooding on infrastructure, livelihoods, and food security. The presentation outlines the unprecedented scale of the floods and the objectives of the

RP-DNA, which include assessing the disaster's impact on infrastructure, livelihoods, and service delivery, and estimating short-, medium-, and long-term reconstruction needs. The assessment covers 16 flood-affected districts and focuses on 9 sectors across four thematic areas, including social, productive, and infrastructure sectors.

Key sectors analyzed include housing, health, education, farming, water, energy, and disaster risk reduction. The economic damage from the floods amounts to \$126.6 million in damages and \$49.5 million in losses, with a total recovery of \$230.6 million. The floods also heightened poverty, food insecurity, and displaced millions, disproportionately affecting women and children.

The presentation emphasizes the need for a resilient recovery framework

focused on building community resilience, restoring livelihoods, and ensuring equitable access to essential services, while fostering sustainable development in flood-affected areas. Dr. Muse shared the recommendations from the assessment, which called for improved disaster preparedness, better early warning systems, and increased investments in climate-resilient infrastructure to mitigate future disasters.



Dr. Abdullahi Muse
Strategy and Policy
Coordinator, Office of the
National Security, FGS

Presentation Topic:
**Climate Change as a National
Security Threat to Somalia**

Mohamed Maruf from the Office of National Security presented the findings of a significant report, endorsed by the Somali Cabinet on June 27, 2024. The report, titled National Threat Assessment, ranks climate change as the 6th greatest threat to Somalia's national security

among eight other identified threats. The presentation elaborated on the geopolitical and socio-economic risks posed by climate change, including migration, resource conflicts, and food insecurity, highlighting the importance of integrating climate risk into national security strategies.



Dhaqane Halane

ICE Institute,
Researcher

Presentation Topic:

Exploring the Climate Change Resilience of Major Crops in Somalia: Implications for Ensuring Food Security

Mohamed Maruf from the Office of National Security presented the findings of a significant report, endorsed by the Somali Cabinet on June 27, 2024. The report, titled National Threat Assessment, ranks climate change as the 6th greatest threat to Somalia's national security

among eight other identified threats. The presentation elaborated on the geopolitical and socio-economic risks posed by climate change, including migration, resource conflicts, and food insecurity, highlighting the importance of integrating climate risk into national security strategies.





Abdisalan Aden
Academic
Researcher

Presentation Topic:
Enhancing Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa: Investigating the Role of Environmental Degradation, Food Prices, and Institutional Quality

Abdisalan Aden Mohamed presented findings from his academic study, published by the ICE Institute in June 2024 in the Journal of Agriculture and Food Research. His study investigated how environmental degradation, fluctuating food prices, and institutional quality impact food

security in Sub-Saharan Africa, with a specific focus on Somalia. The research emphasized the need for strong institutions and effective policy frameworks to mitigate the effects of environmental stressors on food production and security.



Video Presentations

The video presentations at the Climate Symposium brought a global perspective on climate resilience and youth empowerment. Zamzam Ibrahim, representing Somalis in Sustainability, presented a video on the importance of green skills for youth employment. Her video focused on educating young people about sustainability and renewable energy, emphasizing how Somalia's potential for renewable energy could transform it into a green jobs hub, fostering a sustainable economy.

The presentation "Safe Through Crises" by Dr. Ulrike Dingreiter at the 2024 Climate Change Symposium in Mogadishu highlights disaster risk reduction and management strategies from Europe, particularly Germany, focusing on the increasing frequency of climate-related disasters globally. Dr. Dingreiter introduces the LOC

concept—Law, Organization, and Community—as key to effective disaster management, with legal frameworks defining responsibilities, districts organizing detailed emergency plans, and strong community engagement, including both professional and volunteer firefighters, ensuring rapid response to disasters. The approach emphasizes collaboration and planning, offering potential lessons for Somalia in addressing its own climate-related challenges. sharing valuable lessons from global practices. Her video highlighted the importance of disaster preparedness, especially for Somalia, a disaster-prone country facing multiple crises. The presentation underscored the need to strengthen institutional quality to better manage and reduce the risks associated with climate-related disasters.



Panel Discussions

Panel 1: Advancing Rights-Based and Locally Led Climate Adaptation

The first-panel discussion of the Climate Symposium, "Advancing Rights-Based and Locally Led Climate Adaptation," began with great enthusiasm from both the speakers and the audience. This panel aimed to highlight how climate shocks are threatening the fundamental human rights of the Somali population and stressed the need for a more inclusive, rights-based approach to climate adaptation.

Moderated by **Abdikafi Hassan**, the Head of Research at the ICE Institute,

the panel featured the following speakers:

- Dr Ahmed Abdi Adan, Deputy Commissioner, of the Somali Disaster Management Agency (SODMA)
- Ms. Hafsa Omar, Director, Climate Change, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC)
- Hassan Abdulkadir, Director, Climate Solutions Office, Hormuud Group
- Abdinor Dahir, Managing Director, TaloFord Consulting



Abdikafi Hassan Abdi
Moderator
Head of Research, ICE
Institute



Dr Ahmed Abdi Adan
Deputy Commissioner,
SoDMA



Hafsa Omar
Director, Climate Change,
MoECC



Abdinor Dahir
Managing Director, TaloFord
Consulting



Hassan Abdulkadir Hassan
Director, climate solutions
office, Hormuud group

The discussion revolved around the idea that climate change disproportionately affects the most vulnerable groups, including women, children, and marginalized communities, thereby violating their basic human rights such as access to food, clean water, and shelter.

One of the key takeaways was the need to integrate human rights principles into climate policies and ensure that

locally led solutions are at the forefront of adaptation strategies. The speakers emphasized that climate adaptation in Somalia must leave no one behind, focusing on inclusive policies that engage communities directly impacted by climate shocks. The panel discussed how private sector initiatives could support locally led efforts through funding and technical assistance including the importance of disaster

preparedness and early warning systems to mitigate the human cost of climate-related disasters. In conclusion, the panel agreed that a rights-based, locally-led approach is critical to building climate resilience in Somalia. They called for greater community

engagement, stronger policies to protect human rights in the face of climate challenges, and increased collaboration between the government, private sector, and civil society to ensure equitable climate action.



Panel 2: Mobilizing Climate Finance for Somalia

The second panel, "Mobilizing Climate Finance," brought together high-level representatives to address the financial challenges Somalia faces in implementing its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and building climate resilience. With Somalia's NDCs estimating a need for \$16 billion over the next six years, and a national budget of only \$1 billion—70% of which comes from international donors—the financial gap is stark.

Moderated by **Naima Hussein Ahmed**, SIMAD iLab

- Ambassador Gamal Hassan, Director IGAD Centre of Climate Adaption and Environmental Protection (ICAEP)
- Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim, Minister of Resilience and Rural Development for South West State of Somalia
- Dr. Abdullahi Khalif, Senior Principal Advisor to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC)
- Abdishakur Afrah, from Premier Bank.



Naima Hussein Ahmed
Moderator
Fintech Lead, SIMAD iLab



Amb Gamal M Hassan
Director, Centre of Excellence
for Climate Adaptation and
Environmental Protection,
IGAD



Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim
Minister of Resilience and
Rural Development,
South West State of Somalia



Abdishakur Afrah
Head of Corporates and SMEs,
Premier Bank



Dr. Abdullahi Khalif
NDCs Facilitator

The panel emphasized the need for innovative financing mechanisms and strategic partnerships to close the gap between Somalia’s climate needs and available resources. **Ambassador Gamal Hassan** stressed the importance of pursuing bilateral funding, especially through international partnerships and agreements, to bolster Somalia’s access to climate finance. He also highlighted that Somalia’s reliance on donor aid is unsustainable and urged the government to explore new financing avenues, including green bonds and carbon markets.

Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim pointed out the potential for public-private partnerships to drive investments in

climate resilience, while **Abdishakur Afrah** discussed how local financial institutions like Premier Bank could play a crucial role in supporting climate projects. Dr Abdullahi stressed that mobilizing resources domestically is also a key to bridge the financial gap and dependency to fund adaptation efforts. The panel concluded by agreeing that Somalia needs to develop a comprehensive national climate finance strategy that involves both public and private sectors. A key recommendation was the creation of a national climate finance unit to coordinate funding efforts and enhance the country’s capacity to access international climate funds like the Green Climate Fund (GCF).



Panel 3: Youth as Drivers of Climate Action

The third panel, "Youth as Drivers of Climate Action," focused on the pivotal role Somali youth play in fostering inclusive and locally driven climate solutions. With Somalia's population being predominantly young—approximately 70% under the age of 30—the future of climate resilience lies in the hands of the youth.

This panel was facilitated by **Juweria**



Juweria Garacade
Moderator
Visiting Researcher, ICE
Institute



Hamze Abdiwahab
Director, Somali Youth Hub



Abdfifatah Hassan Ali
Capacity development
Specialist, UNSOM



Abdilatif Omar
Director, Action for
Environment

Garcade, from the ICE Institute, and featured:

- Abdfifatah Hassan, Capacity Development Specialist from the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM)
- Hamza Abdiwahab, Director of Somali Youth Hub
- Abdilatif Omar, Director of Action for Environment

The discussion highlighted the unique position of Somali youth in leading climate action, particularly given that they are already grappling with the effects of fragility, conflict, and now climate shocks. Hamza Abdiwahab noted that the Ministry of Youth has enacted a national youth policy that encourages youth-led initiatives in various sectors, including climate action. However, Abdilatif Omar emphasized that while young people are spearheading locally led climate efforts, their work is often hampered by a lack of financial support and resources.

Panelists called for more investment in youth-driven climate initiatives, stressing the importance of educating

young people on climate science and policy. They also advocated for incubating youth-led projects and providing both financial and technical assistance to help them succeed. The ICE Institute was praised for its efforts in supporting young climate leaders and bridging the gap between youth and policymakers. The panel concluded by affirming that youth must be at the centre of climate policy discussions, given their potential to drive innovation and their disproportionate burden of climate impacts. The speakers agreed that empowering youth is not only a necessity but a right, as they bear the brunt of today's climate crisis and will continue to do so in the future.



07 Exhibitions

An important feature of the Climate Change Symposium was the exhibition space, which highlighted the efforts of small businesses and international organizations in promoting climate resilience in Somalia. The exhibitions

allowed participants to engage with practical climate solutions and learn more about ongoing initiatives.

Key exhibitors included:



1. Heybad – A small business focused on selling eco-friendly products, showcasing sustainable alternatives aimed at reducing environmental impact.



2. Geedsom – A startup specializing in indoor living plants, promoting greener living environments and fostering a connection to nature within urban settings.



3. World Food Programme (WFP) – WFP presented detailed reports, flyers, and maps that provided insights into their work addressing food insecurity and climate impacts in Somalia.



4. United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) – UNSOM used the exhibition to display their ongoing efforts in peacebuilding and development, particularly highlighting how their work addresses climate challenges through informative materials.



5. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) – FAO's booth featured their programs focused on supporting agricultural resilience and climate adaptation, offering resources and education on sustainable agricultural practices.

These exhibitions provided a valuable platform for attendees to gain practical knowledge about climate action and

explore innovative solutions being implemented both locally and global.



Achievements and Impact

The Climate Change Symposium marked a significant achievement in raising awareness and promoting action on climate resilience in Somalia. One of the key accomplishments was the heightened awareness among participants and the broader public about the urgent climate challenges facing Somalia. Through a combination of live presentations, recorded videos, and educational content, the symposium provided valuable insights into climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation. Over 200 participants engaged with this content, gaining a deeper understanding of how climate change impacts on human rights in general and in Somalia and what needs to be done to mitigate these effects.

A particularly impactful outcome was the wide dissemination of the symposium's discussions and presentations across social media platforms. Recorded sessions were shared with a broader audience, allowing thousands more to benefit from the insights and recommendations presented at the event. This extended the reach of the symposium beyond the 200 participants who attended in person, amplifying the message that climate action is critical for Somalia's future. The symposium also featured

informative videos that educated attendees and online viewers on the importance of disaster preparedness and the role of green skills in youth employment. The videos resonated with a young audience, encouraging them to pursue careers in the renewable energy sector, which has immense potential in Somalia.

Collaboration and partnerships were key achievements of the symposium. The event facilitated new partnerships between government, international bodies, private sector players, and civil society. One notable outcome was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Somali Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA) and SIMAD University, establishing a collaborative framework for disaster risk reduction and management in Somalia. Other partnerships, such as those between SOS Children's Village Somalia, IGAD, and the Ministry of Youth and Sports, were also strengthened, ensuring a continued focus on climate resilience across multiple sectors.

In terms of policy and advocacy, the symposium resulted in the adoption of a position paper that provided a comprehensive overview of the current state of climate action in Somalia.

The paper identified key gaps in interventions and offered practical policy recommendations based on community needs, data management, and capacity building. It also called for the protection of marginalized communities, including people with disabilities, ensuring that climate policies are inclusive and equitable. These policy advancements are

expected to guide Somalia's climate agenda in the coming years, helping the country strengthen its adaptation capabilities and mitigate climate risks effectively. The Symposium also became a platform for insights and discussions to feed into Somalia's national communications into COP29 in November.



III. Climate Conversation Series

Climate Conversations Series Program: 2024 Impact Report

The **Climate Conversations Series**, organized by the ICE Institute, has been a transformative initiative aimed at fostering awareness, dialogue, and actionable solutions for pressing environmental challenges. The series, designed to bring together policymakers, youth, academics, and community leaders, provided a unique platform for meaningful discussions and knowledge sharing on climate resilience and sustainability. For the year, we hosted 8 sessions of this conversation across many themes from Climate finance, Youth empowerment,

Biodiversity loss, Beating the plastics and Climate Governance.

Throughout 2024, the Climate Conversations Series hosted multiple sessions addressing a wide range of topics, including waste management, climate adaptation, and environmental justice. The program emphasized the intersection of global challenges with local actions, drawing insights from international best practices and tailoring them to Somalia's unique context.

Here some Highlight Sessions



1. Fireside Chat: Beating Plastic Pollution

This session, inspired by World Environment Day, explored global strategies to combat plastic pollution. Experts highlighted innovative solutions from countries like Kenya and India, discussing their relevance to Somalia. The session culminated in actionable recommendations, including developing local recycling industries and promoting community education on waste management.



2. Women in Climate Action

Held on International Women's Day, this session celebrated the pivotal role of women in driving sustainable environmental change. Speakers such as Najah Faisal Ahmed and Bahja Ali Shurie shared their experiences, emphasizing the need for gender-inclusive policies and empowering women to lead climate initiatives.



3. National Adaptation Plan Discussion

A collaborative session with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, focusing on Somalia's National Adaptation Plan (NAP). Participants examined strategies for enhancing local resilience and integrating youth in climate adaptation efforts. Over 40 attendees, primarily young environmentalists, engaged in discussions on actionable local measures.



4. Community-Led Conservation and Advocacy

This session centered on leveraging community-based solutions for biodiversity conservation and climate advocacy. Interactive workshops provided participants with tools to mobilize grassroots campaigns effectively, fostering a sense of local ownership in environmental conservation.

Key Achievements

Engagement:

The series engaged over 200 participants across multiple sessions, including youth leaders, policymakers, and academics.

Policy Influence:

Discussions contributed to shaping local policies, particularly in areas of waste management and climate adaptation.

Capacity Building:

Attendees acquired practical skills in advocacy, policy engagement, and sustainable practices.

Awareness:

The series amplified awareness on critical issues such as plastic pollution, water scarcity, and climate justice.

Building on the success of the 2024 Climate Conversations Series, ICE plans to scale the program to include regional hubs, engage more international experts, and incorporate technology for wider reach. The institute also aims to produce knowledge products, such as policy

briefs and multimedia content, derived from these sessions to ensure lasting impact. By fostering inclusive and action-oriented dialogue, the Climate Conversations Series has laid the foundation for a more informed, resilient, and sustainable Somalia.



IV. ICE Institute at COP29 in Azerbaijan

The Institute of Climate and Environment (ICE), a flagship initiative of SIMAD University, made a significant mark at COP29, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November 2024. Represented by Director Mohamed Okash and Ustaad Abdikafi Hassan, ICE played a pivotal role in advancing discussions on climate resilience and sustainability, particularly for fragile states like Somalia. Through strategic engagements, panel discussions, and partnership-building efforts, ICE highlighted its commitment to positioning Somalia as a global thought leader in climate action.

A major highlight of ICE's participation was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Somalis for Sustainability**, a diaspora organization based in London. This partnership aims to enhance knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, and joint sustainability initiatives, symbolizing the unity and collaborative strength of Somali climate advocates on a global scale. The MoU signing ceremony was attended by a distinguished Somali delegation, further amplifying its importance. ICE co-hosted a powerful panel discussion titled **"Building Climate Resilience in Fragile States: Powerful Stories of Climate Action"** at the IOM Pavilion. The session featured key speakers, including Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim, Minister of Resilience and Rural Development, South West State of Somalia, and Zamzam Ibrahim, Director of Somalis for Sustainability, who moderated the discussion. By sharing innovative approaches and Somalia-specific case studies, the panel drew a diverse audience and fostered actionable dialogue on resilience-building in fragile states.



The ICE team leveraged the platform at COP29 to engage in extensive bilateral meetings with global climate organizations such as RTI International, the Climate Mobility Alliance, and the New Climate Institute. These discussions resulted in principle agreements for future collaborations in areas such as knowledge exchange, capacity-building for fragile states, and joint research on sustainable solutions. Partnerships with organizations like FAO Somalia and UNEP Somali representatives further underscored ICE's expanding global network and influence. Through its participation, ICE not only showcased Somali-driven climate solutions but also strengthened its institutional presence on the global stage. The experience reaffirmed ICE's role as a key stakeholder in climate resilience and sustainability conversations. With new partnerships and expanded visibility, ICE is well-positioned to drive transformative projects that address both local and global climate challenges. This successful engagement at COP29 sets the stage for future endeavors, reflecting SIMAD University's vision of fostering global excellence and impact.



Mogadishu Environmental Summit 2024

Empowering Communities for Climate Action: Climate Justice Through Green Jobs and Sustainable Livelihoods

The Mogadishu Environmental Summit 2024, held from December 4–5 at Hotel Jazeera in Mogadishu, was a landmark event convening over 200 stakeholders from government, academia, civil society, and the private sector. Organized collaboratively by Action for Environment, the ICE Institute at SIMAD University, and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC), the summit addressed Somalia's pressing environmental challenges and opportunities for sustainable growth. The event provided a platform for fostering climate justice, advancing research, and building resilience through actionable strategies.

The summit's opening session featured inspiring speeches from key figures. Abdilatif Hussein Omar, Director of Action for Environment, welcomed

participants and emphasized the urgency of addressing climate issues through collaboration. Dr. Abdikarim Mohaidin Ahmed, Rector of SIMAD University, underscored the institution's pivotal role in advancing research and innovation for environmental sustainability. Hafsa Abdullahi Omar, Director of Climate Change at MoECC, highlighted the importance of government support and policies to foster transformative climate initiatives. The closing session echoed these themes, with Mohamed Okash delivering a forward-looking communiqué outlining Somalia's commitments to climate action. Abdullahi Ahmed and Hafsa Abdilahi expressed gratitude to sponsors and stakeholders, reinforcing the collective responsibility for ensuring a sustainable future.



Summit Objectives and Achievements

The summit's primary objectives were to raise awareness about climate change impacts, foster collaboration among stakeholders, inspire community-driven climate action, and showcase innovative research and solutions. Key outcomes included the presentation of evidence-based strategies, the establishment of partnerships for climate resilience, and commitments to green jobs and inclusive climate policies.

Highlights of the summit included:

- **Three impactful keynote addresses** by distinguished leaders emphasizing the need for collective climate action.
- **Three dynamic panel discussions** exploring themes such as empowering communities, bridging knowledge and action, and unlocking climate finance.
- **Five expert presentations addressing** drought management, renewable energy, and climate-smart agriculture. Seven exhibitions showcasing innovative, eco-friendly solutions and sustainable practices.

These activities reinforced the importance of collaboration across sectors to tackle environmental challenges while advancing sustainable development in Somalia.



Key Sessions and Discussions

Panel Discussions:



1. Empowering Communities for Climate Action:

Moderated by **Sucad Jama from ICE Institute**, this panel highlighted the role of green jobs and youth empowerment in fostering resilience. Panelists from Oxfam, SIMAD iLab, and Somali Youth Hub shared insights on collaboration between academia, government, and local communities to drive equitable climate solutions.



2. Bridging Knowledge and Action:

Facilitated by **Abdikafi Hassan, ICE's Head of Research**, this panel underscored academia's role in advancing climate justice. Speakers from Somali National University and UPEACE emphasized the need for robust research to inform policy and build capacity.



3. Advancing Climate Justice: Unlocking Climate Finance:

Led by **Mohamed Okash**, this panel focused on mechanisms to secure international funding for climate adaptation. Representatives from the National Climate Fund, Hormuud Group, and MoECC discussed aligning national policies with global funding opportunities.

Key Presentations:



Patterns of Drought Events by **Khadijo Hassan Hersi** provided insights into drought trends in Somalia's Bay Region and strategies for mitigation.



Exploring Somalia's NDC Sector Gaps by **Dr. Abdullahi Khalif** emphasized the need for targeted investments and robust institutional frameworks to advance Somalia's climate commitments.



Transition Towards Renewable Energy by **Abdikafi Hassan Abdi** outlined the role of renewable energy in achieving sustainability.



Exhibitions:

Innovative displays included sustainable charcoal production, eco-friendly products, and recycling initiatives, underscoring the potential for community-driven solutions to environmental challenges.

Collaborative Impact and Future Directions

The **Mogadishu Environmental Summit 2024** concluded with a powerful communiqué delivered by Mohamed Okash, outlining commitments to renewable energy, climate finance, and community-driven adaptation strategies. The event emphasized the importance of fostering unity and action among stakeholders, laying the groundwork for transformative climate resilience in Somalia. The ICE Institute will continue to build on the summit's momentum by expanding partnerships, promoting research-driven policy advocacy, and empowering

communities through innovative programs. By fostering a collaborative environment, the summit underscored the critical role of inclusivity and sustainability in addressing Somalia's environmental challenges and advancing its development agenda.

The success of the **Mogadishu Environmental Summit 2024** would not have been possible without the generous support and collaboration of our esteemed partners and sponsors.

Gold Sponsor:

Oxfam Somalia, whose commitment to sustainable development and climate resilience was instrumental in ensuring the summit's success.

Silver Sponsors:

Hormuud Telecom, IBS Bank, Salaam Bank, Quantus, PACJA (Pan African Climate Justice Alliance), and SOS Somalia, all of whom played vital roles in supporting the summit's objectives and fostering innovation.

Organizers and Partners:

Action for Environment, the ICE Institute at SIMAD University, and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) were pivotal in bringing together diverse stakeholders to create a platform for impactful dialogue and collaboration.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to these organizations for their unwavering dedication to advancing climate justice and sustainability in Somalia. Their support not only

enabled the summit but also set a powerful example of the transformative potential of collective action.



Advancing Research and Knowledge

I. Peer-Reviewed Publications

- 1 Anticipating La Niña in Somalia: Projected Drought Impacts and Urgent Preparedness Actions**

This publication explores the anticipated impacts of La Niña on Somalia, particularly its effects on drought, food security, and water availability during the 2024 Deyr season. Somalia, heavily reliant on rain-fed agriculture, is projected to face drier conditions, reduced crop yields, and severe water shortages, exacerbating food insecurity for millions. Vulnerable groups, including children and rural communities, are identified as being at the highest risk. The study outlines key preparedness strategies, including strengthening early warning systems, promoting drought-resistant crops, enhancing water conservation, and fostering international partnerships. It emphasizes the importance of proactive planning to mitigate La Niña's adverse effects on Somalia's socio-economic stability and food systems.
- 2 Determinants of Agricultural Exports in Somalia: The Impacts of Exchange Rates, Foreign Direct Investment, and Institutional Quality**

This study investigates the factors influencing agricultural exports in Somalia from 1985 to 2017, emphasizing the role of exchange rates, foreign direct investment (FDI), and institutional quality. Using the ARDL model, the research highlights that currency depreciation enhances long-term export competitiveness, while FDI and strong institutional frameworks consistently promote agricultural exports. However, domestic investments positively impact exports only in the short term. The study emphasizes climate-related factors, such as rainfall, as vital in sustaining agricultural productivity. Recommendations include improving institutional governance, rainwater harvesting infrastructure, and policies to attract export-oriented FDI. This research provides critical insights for enhancing Somalia's agricultural sector's resilience and export capacity.
- 3 Fostering a Sustainable Future in Somalia: Examining the Effects of Industrialization, Energy Consumption, and Urbanization on Environmental Sustainability**

This study examines the effects of energy consumption, industrialization, and urbanization on environmental sustainability in Somalia from 1990 to 2020. The analysis demonstrates that energy consumption significantly contributes to environmental pollution due to Somalia's reliance on fossil fuels and biomass, while industrialization, despite its modest scale in the country, also negatively impacts environmental sustainability. Urbanization presents a complex relationship, with both positive and negative effects on the environment. The study underscores the need for sustainable energy practices and urban planning to enhance environmental sustainability in Somalia.

4

Pathways to Sustainable Development in Somalia: Evaluating the Impact of Agriculture, Renewable Energy, and Urbanization on Ecological Footprints and CO₂ Emissions

This paper investigates the environmental impacts of agriculture, renewable energy, economic growth, and urbanization on Somalia's ecological footprints and CO₂ emissions, using time-series data from 1990 to 2020. The findings reveal that while agriculture and renewable energy significantly reduce both ecological footprints and CO₂ emissions in the long run, agricultural activities initially increase ecological footprints in the short term. Economic growth and urbanization, however, are associated with increased ecological footprints and CO₂ emissions, posing challenges to environmental sustainability. The study highlights the importance of promoting renewable energy and sustainable agricultural practices to achieve sustainable development in Somalia.

5

Enhancing Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa: Investigating the Role of Environmental Degradation, Food Prices, and Institutional Quality

This paper examines the various determinants affecting food security in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). Using panel data from 32 SSA countries spanning from 2002 to 2020, the study explores the influence of agricultural land, population growth, environmental degradation, income per capita, food prices, capital formation, and institutional quality on food security. Key findings include that the expansion of agricultural land and increasing per capita income significantly enhance food security, while environmental degradation poses a severe threat. The study recommends adopting sustainable land use practices, implementing effective environmental management strategies, increasing agricultural investment, reforming governance structures, and establishing balanced food pricing mechanisms to enhance food security in SSA.

6

Exploring Climate Change Resilience of Major Crops in Somalia: Implications for Ensuring Food Security

This study assesses the resilience of major crops in Somalia to climate change, focusing on implications for food security. The research analyzes the sensitivity of staple crops to climatic variables and evaluates adaptive strategies to enhance crop resilience. Findings indicate that certain crops exhibit varying degrees of resilience to climate stressors, and adopting climate-smart agricultural practices can mitigate adverse effects. The study emphasizes the need for policy interventions to promote resilient crop varieties and sustainable farming practices to ensure food security in the face of climate change.

7

Examining the Confluence of Climate Change and Conflicts on Agricultural and Livestock Exports in Somalia

This research explores the combined impact of climate change and conflicts on Somalia's agricultural and livestock exports. The study utilizes empirical data to analyze how climatic shocks and security challenges affect export performance. Results reveal that both climate change and conflicts significantly hinder export activities, with compounded effects leading to substantial economic losses. The paper underscores the importance of integrated strategies addressing both climate adaptation and conflict resolution to safeguard and enhance export sectors.

8

Investigating the Complex Landscape of Climate Finance in the Least-Developed Countries (LDCs)

This paper delves into the intricacies of climate finance in Least-Developed Countries (LDCs), examining the challenges and opportunities in mobilizing funds for climate action. The study highlights disparities in fund allocation, accessibility issues, and the effectiveness of financial mechanisms. Findings suggest that while international climate finance has increased, LDCs often face hurdles in accessing and efficiently utilizing these funds. The research calls for streamlined processes, capacity building, and enhanced transparency to improve climate finance efficacy in LDCs.

LCOY Youth Statement 2024

Summary of the National Youth Statement on Climate Change, Somalia

The **National Youth Statement on Climate Change** is Somalia's inaugural youth-led initiative aimed at addressing climate action through a unified voice. Developed through consultations with over 100 youth delegates representing all Federal Member States and ensuring at least 30% gender diversity, this statement

outlines seven key thematic areas critical for climate resilience and sustainable development in Somalia: **Climate Peace and Security, Food and Agriculture, Nature and Biodiversity, Oceans and Water, Loss and Damage, Energy and Renewables, and Climate Health.**

Key Themes and Recommendations

1 **Climate Peace and Security:**

Climate-induced resource scarcity exacerbates conflicts and instability in Somalia. Recommendations include integrating climate considerations into national security frameworks, establishing regional Climate Security Councils, and promoting youth engagement in peacebuilding through capacity building and funding for rapid response mechanisms.

2 **Food and Agriculture:**

Agriculture, the backbone of Somalia's economy, is highly vulnerable to climate shocks. To enhance resilience, the statement advocates for climate-smart agriculture, drought-resistant crops, sustainable water management, and secure land rights. Training programs, research, and microfinance are highlighted as key enablers.

3 **Nature and Biodiversity:**

Somalia's ecosystems face degradation due to deforestation, habitat loss, and climate change. The youth call for the expansion of protected areas, sustainable land use policies, and community-led conservation initiatives, supported by capacity-building programs and international partnerships.

4 **Oceans and Water:**

Somalia's marine and freshwater resources are threatened by overfishing, pollution, and climate impacts. Sustainable fisheries management, integrated water resource strategies, and marine conservation are proposed, alongside public awareness campaigns and investments in water infrastructure.

5 Loss and Damage:

Climate-related disasters have caused significant socio-economic losses. The statement recommends establishing a Loss and Damage Compensation Fund, integrating disaster risk reduction into policy frameworks, and investing in climate-resilient infrastructure and early warning systems.

6 Energy and Renewables:

Limited access to clean energy has constrained development while exacerbating environmental degradation. The statement emphasizes the transition to renewable energy, including solar and wind power, supported by regulatory frameworks, community-based energy projects, and capacity building for youth.

7 Climate Health:

Climate change exacerbates health challenges like waterborne diseases, malnutrition, and mental health issues. Recommendations include improving water and healthcare infrastructure, promoting sustainable farming practices, and raising awareness about climate-related health risks.

The statement underscores the transformative potential of Somalia's youth, who make up over 75% of the population. By fostering collaboration between the government, international donors, and local communities, this initiative aims to build a resilient,

sustainable, and equitable future. It calls for sustained investments, capacity-building programs, and policy reforms to address the unique challenges posed by climate change in Somalia.



Communique – Mogadishu Environmental Summit

The Mogadishu Environmental Summit 2024 brought together key stakeholders from government, academia, civil society, and the private sector to address Somalia's pressing environmental challenges under the theme "Bridging Knowledge and Action: Empowering Somalia for Climate Resilience and Justice." The summit emphasized actionable strategies, including creating green jobs, advancing renewable energy, and establishing a National Climate Fund. It highlighted the role of research and academia, particularly the ICE Institute, in bridging knowledge gaps and

informing climate policies. Resolutions called for increased access to global climate finance, fostering inclusive climate policies, and aligning Somalia's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with global commitments. A unified platform for knowledge sharing and partnerships with international stakeholders was recommended to enhance Somalia's climate adaptation and resilience. The summit concluded with a collective call for urgent and collaborative action to ensure sustainable development and climate justice.



Position Paper – Climate Symposium Mogadishu 2024

The **Position Paper: Somalia Needs a New Paradigm for Inclusive Climate Action** emphasizes the urgent necessity for a comprehensive, human rights-based approach to address Somalia's escalating climate challenges. Despite contributing less than 0.03% to global greenhouse gas emissions, Somalia disproportionately suffers from severe climate shocks, including droughts, floods, and land degradation, which exacerbate existing vulnerabilities such as food insecurity and displacement. The paper highlights recent governmental efforts, such as the establishment of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) and the ratification of the National Environmental Protection

Law, acknowledging progress while noting that current interventions remain fragmented and difficult to assess. It calls for locally-led solutions that enhance resilience, foster sustainable development, and align with national priorities, stressing the need for adaptive climate policies tailored to local realities. The paper also underscores the significant funding gap, with Somalia requiring an estimated \$2 billion annually for climate adaptation, double its current GDP, with 70% of this funding yet to be domestically mobilized. Without a paradigm shift, continuing "business as usual" will place Somalia's climate resilience and recovery at severe risk.



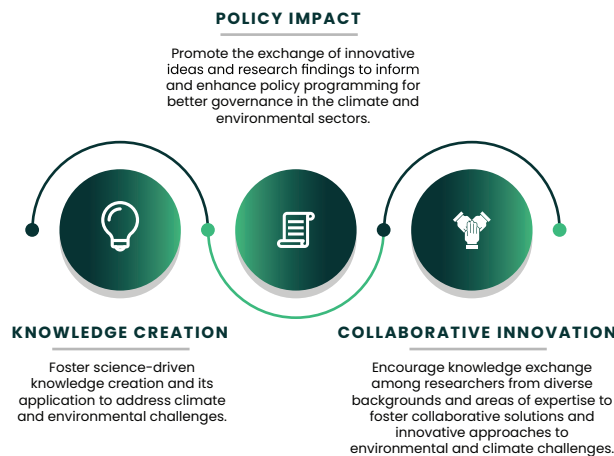
II. Sustainability Scholars Program

The Sustainability Scholars Program (SSP) is a flagship initiative by the Institute of Climate and Environment (ICE) at SIMAD University, dedicated to addressing Somalia's most pressing climate and environmental challenges. Launched as a grant-based research opportunity, the program seeks to foster a network of talented researchers both nationally and internationally. By emphasizing science-driven knowledge, collaborative innovation, and policy impact, the SSP aims to build sustainable, climate-resilient solutions

tailored to the unique needs of Somalia and its surrounding region.

In September 4, 2024, we announced our inaugural class of SSP to drive impactful research. The SSP underscores ICE's commitment to enhancing research, policy programming, and practical solutions to tackle the effects of climate change, food insecurity, and environmental degradation. This program aligns with Somalia's national priorities and the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), making it a critical initiative for driving impactful change.

Program Objectives



Research Focus Areas

The program emphasizes a wide array of research areas critical to Somalia's

sustainable development. These include:



Spotlight on Expertise: Dr. Ulrike Dinglireiter's Contribution to EACON 2025

At the East African Climate and Environment Conference (EACON), co-organized by SIMAD University, the presence of distinguished experts elevated the discussions on climate action and policy harmonization. Among them was **Dr. Ulrike Dinglireiter, a Senior Fellow at the ICE Institute**, who brought a wealth of expertise to the **Panel on Leveraging the EAC for Stronger Environmental Policies: Building Regional Resilience**.

Dr. Dinglireiter's insights were instrumental in shaping the discourse on climate adaptation, policy integration, and regional cooperation. She underscored the pivotal role of evidence-based research and academic collaboration in informing

policy decisions that drive sustainable environmental governance across the East African Community (EAC). Her contributions highlighted the need for **harmonized adaptation strategies, robust data-sharing mechanisms, and regional capacity-building initiatives** to address climate vulnerabilities.

As a leading figure in environmental research, **Dr. Dinglireiter emphasized the value of bridging the gap between science and policymaking**, advocating for stronger collaboration between academia, governments, and civil society. Her participation reinforced ICE Institute's commitment to fostering knowledge-driven solutions that enhance climate resilience and sustainability in the region.



Advancing Institutional Capacity

Erasmus+ International Staff Training Week at Kütahya Dumlupınar University

As part of SIMAD University's strategic engagement with the Erasmus+ program, Director Mohamed Okash participated in the International Staff Training Week at Kütahya Dumlupınar University (DPU) in May 2024. His involvement was instrumental in fostering international collaboration, knowledge exchange, and capacity building for SIMAD University. Through interactive sessions and expert-led discussions, Director Okash gained valuable insights into EU-funded project management, digital transformation, and sustainable institutional partnerships. He actively

contributed to dialogues on climate action, innovation, and higher education sustainability, aligning with SIMAD University's commitment to internationalization and research excellence. His participation also strengthened the university's ties with European and global institutions, paving the way for future academic and project collaborations. Director Okash's engagement in this prestigious training week underscores SIMAD University's ambition to position itself as a key player in global education and sustainable development initiatives.



ChangemakerXchange's Training of Trainers (ToT) Summit

In February 2025, Mohamed Okash participated at the **ChangemakerXchange Training of Trainers (ToT) Summit** in Piacenza, Italy. This prestigious gathering convened **16 global changemakers from 17 countries**, fostering a collaborative space to refine facilitation, training, and mentoring techniques for emerging social entrepreneurs. **The summit emphasized capacity building, leadership development, and impact-driven strategies** to equip trainers with the tools to support change-makers in launching, scaling, and accelerating social ventures. Director Okash's participation strengthens **ICE's commitment to climate action and social innovation**, ensuring that the lessons learned translate into impactful programs in Somalia. His engagement in high-level

peer learning and interactive methodologies enhances our **institutional ability to nurture young leaders**, empowering them with the skills necessary to drive climate resilience, sustainability, and entrepreneurial success. This experience directly supports the institute's **ongoing initiatives in climate leadership, social entrepreneurship, and community-driven development**, reinforcing our position as a hub for capacity building and policy innovation. The insights gained from the ToT Summit will be integrated into **our training programs, mentorship networks, and climate adaptation efforts**, ensuring that ICE remains at the forefront of Somalia's socio-economic and environmental transformation.



Building Strategic Partnerships

Over the past year, the ICE Institute collaborated with 20 diverse entities across local and international organizations, spanning public, private, and civil society sectors in Somalia and beyond. These partnerships have been instrumental in driving our mission to tackle climate challenges and foster sustainable development.

In 2024 alone, the ICE Institute at SIMAD University achieved remarkable milestones through strategic partnerships that aligned with its mission to address climate challenges and foster sustainable development. Joining the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) Network, a pivotal platform under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), marked a significant step forward. As a member, ICE integrated into a collaborative network that shares expertise and resources in climate capacity building, advancing the implementation of the Paris Agreement and global climate goals. Locally, ICE deepened its relationship with UNSOM (later renamed UNATMIS), co-hosting initiatives like the Climate Change Symposium, which developed actionable recommendations for climate adaptation. Collaborations with Oxfam Somalia led to the Climate

Justice Incubator, which empowered 120 young leaders across 10 universities with advocacy and leadership skills. Partnering with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC), ICE enhanced its capacity to address environmental challenges through joint research, education, and policy advocacy. Additionally, ICE worked with the Banadir Regional Administration to establish a Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility, integrating innovative solutions to enhance community resilience to climate change. Co-hosting the Mogadishu Environmental Summit with Action for Environment further showcased ICE's commitment to stakeholder engagement in environmental sustainability. The Institute's co-organization of the Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) Somalia with the Somali Youth Hub and the Ministry of Youth and Sports provided an inclusive platform for youth participation in climate advocacy.

These partnerships collectively strengthened ICE's ability to deliver impactful programs, expand its knowledge base, and foster collaboration and innovation, solidifying its role as a leader in climate action and sustainable development.

Building Strategic Partnerships

We are proud to share the voices of those who have been directly impacted by our programs. These testimonials highlight the transformative journeys of participants who have embraced their roles as climate advocates and changemakers. While many stories of

inspiration and impact have emerged from our initiatives, we have selected a few testimonials to showcase the depth and diversity of experiences from our participants, illustrating the real-world difference they are making in their communities.

I. Transforming Youth into Climate Advocates: Testimonials from the Climate Justice Incubator

In 2024, the Climate Justice Incubator (CJI), led by the ICE Institute at SIMAD University, brought together 110 young participants to champion climate justice in Somalia. Through intensive training and mentorship, these individuals gained critical knowledge, leadership skills, and advocacy tools to address pressing environmental challenges. The participants created impactful multimedia projects, including videos and blogs, to engage their communities on climate issues.



Abdulkadir Mohamed, one of the participants, reflected on the transformative experience: *"It's exciting that almost 110 people, who previously knew little about climate change, now understand its effects and how it impacts us. I am certain we will take what we have learned to our regions."*

Zakariya, another participant, emphasized Somalia's unique vulnerability: *"Somalia is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world, which means we need youth who will pursue justice and real change."*

The program not only empowered individuals but also amplified the reach of climate advocacy, inspiring conversations and awareness across Somali communities. Participants emerged with the confidence to lead, as captured by Abdifitah Ali: *"I understood the importance of raising awareness in communities about the impact of climate change and the need for action."*

Community Project Highlights: Mobilizing Voices for Change

One of the most significant outcomes of the CJI was the creation of eight multimedia projects that addressed key climate issues such as drought, deforestation, and flooding. These

projects, crafted through collaborative efforts, highlighted the importance of climate justice and engaged broader audiences beyond the program participants.

Iftin, a participant, shared: *“One of the most important things I learned was about the Paris Agreement and how it discusses adaptation and mitigation. I also realized how much Somalia needs climate justice, as many people are unaware of the dangers caused by climate change.”*

A Green Champion’s Journey: Sabarin Ahmed’s Selection for the Eco Champion Program by SoS Children Village

Sabarin Ahmed, a distinguished member of the 2023 Green Champion cohort at the ICE Institute, was honored to be selected for the prestigious Eco Champion Program 2024-2025. This transformative initiative unites youth leaders from six countries across Africa and the Middle East, empowering them to drive impactful climate action in their communities.

Through the Eco Champion Program, Sabarin will have the opportunity to connect with other motivated individuals in a collaborative environment designed to nurture innovation. The program provides

training, mentorship, and seed funding, equipping participants to implement sustainable solutions and inspire change at the grassroots level. Reflecting on her journey, Sabarin embodies the spirit of the Green Champions program, leveraging her experience to address pressing environmental challenges and contribute to a sustainable future for Somalia and beyond.

This achievement underscores the ICE Institute’s commitment to cultivating a new generation of climate leaders, enabling them to expand their impact and foster collaborative networks for global change.



Looking Ahead to 2025

Building on the momentum of 2024, ICE is revising its strategy to align with SIMAD University's 2025-2030 plan. Our vision for 2025 includes:



Scaling Innovation:

Expanding initiatives like the Climate Justice Incubator to empower more youth-led climate projects.



Enhancing Knowledge Sharing:

Upgrading the Knowledge Portal with advanced climate finance resources and real-time data.



Deepening Partnerships:

Strengthening local and global collaborations to co-create sustainable solutions.



Driving Policy Impact:

Intensifying advocacy to influence policies supporting resilience, equity, and sustainability.

Join Us

The journey to a sustainable, climate-resilient Somalia requires collective effort. As we advance Somalia's Transformational Plan, Vision 2060, the Paris Agreement, and the Sustainable Development Goals, we invite partners, supporters, and advocates to join us in creating a greener future for all.







GET INVOLVED

Who we work with is just as important as the work we do. Collaborating with partners is critical to driving and delivering change. Through our partnerships, we develop local solutions that can work for lasting impact. *Want to contribute to our journey, Contact us.*



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