



UNDERSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN SOMALILAND: A SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

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Abstract: Environmental issues are among the most critical challenges humans experience. Various academic scholars discuss environmental issues. This paper intends to understand Somaliland's environmental issues by applying sociological analysis to identify the relationship between the environment and society. It briefly discusses environmental sociology, major environmental problems, and the consequences of environmental problems in Somaliland. Additionally, the article critically analyzes environmental policies and identifies the critical weaknesses of the policies. The article also endeavors to propose potential solutions to overcome the environmental challenges in Somaliland.

Keywords— Environment, Sociology, Somaliland

I. INTRODUCTION

When the colonists invaded Africa, they divided the Somali country into five parts; the northern regions (now Somaliland), the southern regions (Somalia), Djibouti, Hawd and Reserve Area (now in Ethiopia), and the Northern Frontier District (NFD, now in Kenya) (Bade, 2020; MPRCA, 2020). After more than half a century of colonial rule in Somali territory ended, in 1960, two Somali regions gained independence; the northern regions (now Somaliland) became the first to gain independence on 26th June 1960. Somaliland united with the southern Somalia on 1st July 1960, and the Somali Republic was formed. The goal of the union of the two countries was to seek and unite Greater Somalia.

Thirty years after the unification of the two Somali regions, following the collapse of the central Somali military government, in 1991, Somaliland declared their independence from Somalia. For three decades, Somaliland has been an independent country with a democratic government system, one of the best in the Horn of Africa. Somaliland has succeeded in reconciling war-torn clans, stabilizing its borders, and holding democratic presidential, parliamentary, and local council elections (Bade & Hared, 2021). Unfortunately, Somaliland has not yet received international recognition and is regarded as part of the Somali Republic.

Environmental problems have different adverse effects on the whole world. Somaliland is one of the world's poorest countries, coupled with a lack of recognition that impedes environmental resources access. Accordingly, the ecological problems in Somaliland are huge, jeopardizing the livelihood in Somaliland. As a result, these environmental problems are hurting the lives of the people. Therefore, there is a need to understand the environmental issues in Somaliland academically and, more importantly, sociologically. Therefore, this article attempts to explain environmental issues in Somaliland and conveys the message of environmental problems in one of the world's poorest countries and an unrecognized state.

II. BRIEF BACKGROUND TO ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY

Environmental threats arose amongst the most extreme dangers which humanity has to challenge. “Concern about the environment is a social issue, not just a technological one; the human onslaught on the environment comes from the development and global spread of Western social institutions, with the importance these give to continuous economic growth” (Giddens, 1997, p. 535). Thus, environmental sociology gained significant attention in sociological debates during the last century. “Environmental sociologists have a long-held ambition to transform sociology – to outgrow our sub-disciplinary niche and redefine the mainstream” (Lockie, 2015). “Many of us firmly believe that environmental sociology requires us to rethink the foundational principles of sociology and, indeed, the very concept of “social sciences” (Lockie, 2015).

Dunlap (2015) notes that “Environmental sociology, the study of societal-environmental interactions, developed four decades ago in the USA and has spread internationally and become institutionalized around the world” (Dunlap, 2015). “In 1976, the American Sociological Association, following precedents a few years earlier in the Rural Sociological Society and the Society for the Study of Social Problems, established a new section on environmental sociology” (William R. Catton & Dunlap, 2013). Key emphases of the field include investigating the environment’s social construction problems, questioning its causes and effects, and solutions to such issues.

Therefore, ordinary environmental sociology mirrored the propensities of the United States environmental sociology. There has been a specific variety to the United States sociology of the environment. However, a significant event occurred early in the 1990s when most mainstream U.S. environmental sociologists agreed on some collective point of view on its scholarly aims. Two main interrelated goals are worth mentioning. The first was the commitment by most environmental sociologists to rectify what they saw as the lack of attention to mainstream sociology’s biophysical environment (Buttel, 2003). They aimed to exhibit that the biophysical world has significance to the sociological analysis as a causal factor for a social change besides a product of social structures. The second commitment on the part of mainstream environmental sociologists was the notion that environmental sociology’s key research question was to explain the causes of environmental degradation or environmental problems (Buttel, 2003). Thus, environmental sociology has been a significant part of sociology globally. It takes an excellent role in analyzing ecological problems and threats and saving future generations’ ecology.

III. MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN SOMALILAND

Deforestation: globally, environmental problems are different depending on the place. Some countries face pollution problems while others experience a wildfire catastrophe. Deforestation is an increasingly prevalent problem in Africa. “The net loss of forests remains alarmingly high at estimated 4 million hectares per annum between 2000 and 2005” (Kelatwang & Garzuglia, 2006). Accordingly, Somaliland also shares plenty of ecological issues. Although Somaliland remains an internationally unrecognized country, this caused less industrialization in the country. Unfortunately, traditional practices and activities of the people cause environmental problems in Somaliland. Somaliland’s leading environmental problems are deforestation, land degradation, aridity, overgrazing, water scarcity, waste disposal, and climate change.

Deforestation is a critical environmental problem in Somaliland. Meanwhile, Somaliland is a member of the world’s undeveloped countries. The majority of households utilize forests for their basic needs. The woodland forest had been for a long time used for: firewood, charcoal production, poles for traditional huts, farm and livestock stall fencing, crafting of food utensils, grinding pots, traditional sticks, disinfectant for milk containers, medicinal and lime production (Candlelight for Health Education and Environment, 2006, p. 25). The extensive urbanization of cities in Somaliland increased the need for charcoal, which prompted extreme deforestation. In contribution to this, charcoal burning became a source of income for nomads. With the present proportion of deforestation, a rural living mode in its traditional form is on its way to obliteration as a condition in there is getting unbearable year after year. “The issue of deforestation of charcoal production is the most critical issue that might lead to a national environment disaster, which would be difficult to reverse or would take a long time to recover” (Ministry of Pastoral Development and Environment & Candlelight for Health Education and Environment, 2004, p. 10).

Overgrazing: Dualeh & Magan (2005) stated that “the MPD&E considers charcoal production as a more serious cause of range degradation than even overgrazing” (Dualeh & Magan, 2005). Still, overgrazing jeopardizes the environment in Somaliland, where a large portion of the population are pastoralists. Due to the scarcity of rainwater, or in other words, deprived utilization of rainwater fodder production, remains low. Thus, pastoralists move to where water and pasture are available. “As a result, livestock grazing was said to be increasingly being concentrated in certain parts, and this was cited as one of the major causes of overgrazing” (Vargas et al., 2007). Similarly, the increasing number of livestock mentioned to exceed the hosting capacity also adds to overgrazing. The Malthusian theory stated that food production would not balance with the human population growth resulting in life threats. In Somaliland, the increasing population and livestock adversely impact the environment. It is also worth mentioning that the availability of berkad has steered to a reduction of mobility and overgrazing around water sources.

Water scarcity: Water scarcity is among the critical global challenges to be faced in the 21st century. “Water scarcity is commonly defined as a situation when water availability in a country or a region is below 1000m³/person/year” (Rosegrant et al., 2002, p. 1). “However, many regions in the World experience much more severe scarcity, living with less than 500m³/person/year, which could be considered severe water scarcity” (Rosegrant et al., 2002, p. 1). Water scarcity affects almost 8 billion population’s needs and wants. Heavy and sustainable water demands from all users are competing globally, and several factors contribute to water scarcity. While climate change will undoubtedly have an increasing impact on water availability and food production over the coming decades, many other factors include urbanization and industrialization, people’s changing diets, and biofuels production that already affects and will increasingly impact water availability (Chartres & Varma, 2010).

Somaliland's water scarcity is more severe than most of the global water crisis. The majority of the population are pastoralists which their livelihood depends on rainwater. Most Somaliland people use water from open sources, such as dams, springs, and berkads. "Access to safe water in Somaliland is a major challenge; it has been estimated that somewhere between 83%1 and 90%2 of the rural populations do not have access to safe drinking water" (TNS & PSI, 2014). Even the urban cities, including the capital, Hargeisa, are facing water challenges. Somaliland Water Act 2010 (Law No. 49) authorizes that the Ministry of Water development is responsible for developing water resources and managing national water resources. Still, water scarcity is an enormous threat to the lives of people in Somaliland. The unsuccessful implementation of water policies in Somaliland can be regarded as availability and low budget allocation for water in Somaliland.

As an unrecognized state, Somaliland has a limited ability to utilize the rainwater, leading to recurrent droughts. Water for lives is the main challenge. As the rain decreases, people and livestock are vulnerable to dying because of water. The scarcity of water displaces thousands of people from their rural settlements to Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps near the urban areas. International and local non-governmental organizations mainly feed the Internally Displaced People. Another civilian humanitarian aid is also collected from the community to respond to those challenges.

Waste disposal: The literature on solid waste often sees solid waste systems of developing and transitional countries as imperfect or incomplete copies of an "ideal" system that operates in developed countries (Linzner & Ali, 2013). Waste disposal is an increasing global problem in which countries are challenging to manage. It is among the socio-economic and environmental issues that all African countries are suffering. "While the volumes of waste generated in Africa are relatively small, compared to developed regions, the mismanagement of waste in Africa is already impacting human and environmental health" (Godfrey et al., 2019).

With little industry, a weak economy and marginal consumerism, Somaliland does not have the problem of excessive waste collection, treatment and disposal that some other countries in the region face (UNEP, 2005). However, almost half of the population practices inadequate waste management system, life risks arising from this poor sanitation is real. "Human and household waste disposal sites are generally close to dwellings and water sources. There is a lack of garbage collection and the proliferation of plastics bags" (UNEP, 2005). "Seepage from waste dumping sites is also a potential contaminant of ground and surface water resources" (UNEP, 2005).

Although studies on waste disposal or waste management in Somaliland are limited, Di Bella & Vaccari (2015), surveyed five main cities. They focused on difficulties and challenges facing the development of the waste collection, recycling and disposal. The study identified the leading constraints of lack of machinery and technology, facilities' operation; lack of knowledge and awareness; stakeholder relationship difficulties; lack of supervision, land ownership and availability; and lack of specific policies. The causes leading to those constraints were also studied. They were grouped into five categories: reasons dependent on the local context, technical issues, educational issues, institutional issues and reasons dealing with broader problems in the cooperation sector (Di Bella & Vaccari, 2015).

The boundless waste in Somaliland compromise nature and adversely impact human and livestock life. In urban areas, dropped out plastics, bags, and other utensils are overloaded without proper handling. Thus, it is indisputable that was in a risk society in which our activities led to the destruction of nature and our lives.

Climate change: Climate change is among the most incredible tragedies humans are experiencing and suffering currently. From a sociological perspective, it can be argued that humans' living style is among the main contributors to climate change. Marx and Engels discussed the modern capitalist society: "is like the sorcerer, who is no longer able to control the powers of the nether world whom he has called up by his spells" (Marx et al., 1972). The productive competition of the capitalist community has reached a level of degrading the environment in which they live to meet their livelihood needs which endanger the environment.

In Somaliland, adverse impacts of climate change include recurrent droughts, increased biodiversity loss, species migration and encroachment of invasive plants, increased rural-urban migration, changes in the vegetation types, soil fertility loss, and increased infestation of a crop by pests and diseases and increased health risks (Beley & Sugulle, 2011). Most Somaliland people live in rural areas and depend on rain for their livelihood. However, climate change causes drought, which jeopardizes Somaliland's lives. Somalia's climate change projections show a decreasing rainfall trend leading up to 2030, followed by an increase in rainfall with the 2050 and 2070 scenarios. Droughts are Somalia's costliest disaster and affect many Somalis every year (The World Bank, 2020). Issues with water scarcity and flooding for pastoralists are expected to be aggravated by the impacts of climate change; future scenarios project an increase in the variability of rainfall patterns which is likely to result in delayed onsets of extreme rainfall and less rainfall at certain critical times of the year (The World Bank, 2020). Currently, adaptation to climate change in Somaliland is an obstacle to the people and recurrent, droughts, hurricanes, and poor rain are experienced.

IV. THE CRITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES IN SOMALILAND

The aggregate human impact on the environment now exceeds the limits of absorption or regeneration of various major biophysical systems at global and regional levels (McMichael et al., 1998). The resultant global environmental changes include altered atmospheric composition, widespread land degradation, depletion of fisheries, freshwater shortages, and biodiversity losses (McMichael et al., 1998). Somaliland's significant environmental challenges constitute over-dependency on trees for energy and charcoal exports, increasing population pressures and urbanization and natural resource-based conflicts. Degradation of water catchments, rangelands, agricultural lands and the marine environment, combined with illegal fishing and logging, remains a critical and urgent issue to address (Beier & Stephansson, 2012).

The consequences of environmental impacts in Somaliland are countless, but the potent effects, including increasing poverty. Somaliland is a low-income economy with a Gross Domestic Product per capita of USD348 in 2013 (World Bank, 2015). Comparing Somaliland's GDP to other countries in Africa would be the fourth lowest in the ranking, just before Burundi, Malawi, and DR Congo. An estimated 82 per cent of Somalis (99% of the nomadic population) are considered poor across multiple dimensions (Beier & Stephansson, 2012). Livestock remains the backbone of the Somaliland economy and the most significant export. Thus, one can argue that poverty in Somaliland is a consequence of environmental impact.

The environmental impact also increases the poverty disparity between urban and rural populations—rural population are more vulnerable to lose their livestock which their life depends on. The World Bank (2015), more than one in three rural and more than one in four urban people experience poverty in Somaliland. The amount of money required for a household to meet their basic needs is estimated at 207,300 Shillings in urban Somaliland and 180,900 Shillings in rural Somaliland (World Bank, 2015). Households living on less than this are counted as inferior, which results in a poverty headcount of 37.0% in rural Somaliland and 29.7% in urban Somaliland (World Bank, 2015). Many Somaliland people are challenging to meet basic life requirements, and many internally displaced, often from rural to urban areas under the environmental impact.

From the environmental standpoint (as ecosystem services), forests are valuable as habitat, soil stabilization, fertility, and water runoff control (Beier & Stephansson, 2012). Loss of forests is worth mentioning the consequence of environmental challenge in Somaliland. On the one hand, forests are economically significant for livestock's production; on the other hand, charcoal production, which leads to deforestation, became a contradictory economic source. Traditionally, Somalis used wood collected from forests for fuel. However, charcoal is now the preferred local fuel source and has become a lucrative export commodity, ranking second behind livestock (Beier & Stephansson, 2012).

Furthermore, environmental impacts sparked health risks to Somaliland's people. Following the less rain caused by the environmental impact accessing drinkable water is a real problem in Somaliland. Approximately 30% of the population in Somalia has access to improved drinking water sources; 67% in urban areas, while 9% only in rural areas (Beier & Stephansson, 2012). As Beier & Stephansson (2012) noted: "approximately 23% of the population has access to improved sanitation facilities; 52% in urban areas while 6% in rural areas". The problems of water accessibility cause several diseases, including cholera, acute watery diarrhea and others.

On the contrary, unpredicted floods flow the draughts during the rainy seasons and adversely impact the environment. Substantial floods instigate land degradation, soil erosion, swamp unprotected villages and destroy crops. With the poor government infrastructure, the situation is complicated.

Food security is a powerful instrument to end hunger, improve sustenance and advance reasonable economic events. Eradicating hunger implies more age of beneficial people, who are less inclined to diseases and, consequently, are regularly ready to procure more and improve their work. In recent times, food security has received growing attention to alleviate hunger and ensure a sustainable supply of nutritious, secure and accessible food to the population (Subramaniam & Masron, 2019).

Somaliland is in arid and semi-arid regions. Most of its population depends entirely on precipitation and rain-fed water for crop and livestock production. Small changes in rainfall patterns can have major implications in food security (MoERD, 2017). Continuous land degradation and recurrent droughts expose the fragile food security in Somaliland; thus, food security goes beyond addressing agricultural production. Since food is not secured, poor pastoralists eat a pitiful eating regimen comprising grain (rice, sorghum, or maize), tea with sugar and periodically onions and tomatoes. Meat is eaten just once every month, fruit products are scarcely ever accessible, milk is accessible just during the wet season when grown-ups have some with tea, and kids get milk just in a season. However, breastfeeding is common for infant children as long as a year old. Conversely, in primitive Somali life, the food was secured as milk, meat, and other products were available. However, the environmental consequence is the leading causes.

V. REVIEWING SOMALILAND'S ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

Over the most recent 30 years, Somaliland has gained exceptional development in all circles – political, social and economic. In 1991 when the military government of Somalia collapsed and Somaliland declared its independence, Somaliland's cities were in remnants; its education system scarcely existed; its health care system was malfunction, and government institutions were obliterated. From that point, Somaliland modified its urban areas, restored law and order, and founded a democratic state. Following two decades of peace and stability, in 2011, Somaliland envisioned a national development plan for the coming two decades. The Somaliland National Vision 2030: "A stable, democratic and prosperous country where people enjoy a high quality of life" is the road map for our country's long term development aspirations and goals (Ministry of National Planning & Development, 2011). Somaliland 2030 vision poses various essential inquiries to us: Where are we coming from? Where are we today? Where are we going? What is more, what sort of society would we like to become by 2030? The vision encompasses five key pillars: "Economic Development, Infrastructure Development, Governance and Rule of Law, Social Development, and Environmental Protection" (Ministry of National Planning & Development, 2011).

Environmental protection is a critical issue to Somaliland's development vision. It aspires to be "a state with a healthy and well-managed environment that is productive and sustainable in 2030 (Ministry of National Planning & Development, 2011). The plan recognizes that soil erosion, deforestation, recurrent drought, climate changes, overgrazing, overfishing, urbanization, population growth, pollution, farming marginal land, and invasive plant species threaten Somaliland's environment and needs an urgent response. Somaliland has developed strategic plans to realize the environmental vision for several years, such as 2008-2010, 2011-2015, and 2017-2021 strategic goals.

However, this vision seems unachievable after ten years of its launching and the other ten years to go. In fact, given the plan to be implemented and the circumstances surrounding Somaliland, it seems unlikely that it will be possible to achieve a safe environment by 2030. Several factors hinder the achievement of this plan. First, the poor economic situation is a significant obstacle to the success of the environmental protection plan. According to the environmental strategic plans, the implementation budget is expected to be funded by many stakeholders such as the Somaliland government, international and local organizations (Ministry of National Planning & Development, 2011; Ministry of National Planning and Development, 2011; MoERD, 2017). Ministry of environment and rural development's budget allocations have been insufficient. The role of development expenditure has been decreasing, thus affecting service delivery. Currently, the estimated total cost projection for achieving the outcomes chosen in this sector is between \$5.0 and \$11.3 million per year in 2017-2021 (MoERD, 2017). Due to the economic crisis, the budget for the environment in Somaliland in 2019 is 1.3%, while in 2020, it is 1.24% of the total budget of Somaliland (Ministry of Finance, 2019, p. 21). If we compare the 2020 budget allocated to other sectors, security is estimated at 34.68%, while the administration is allocated 14.51%; also, the economy received 16.83%. Critically, reviewing this budget allocation, environmental issues have less concern in the Somaliland government.

The second obstacle to realizing the ministry's planned environmental goals is incompetence and poor staff knowledge. According to the Ministry of Environment and Rural Development's strategic plan for 2017-2021, the lessons learnt from the preliminary strategic plan (2011-2015) related to staff's incompetence to effectively implement the plans. The obstacles to moving forward are the lack of implementing operational plans, low monitoring and evaluation system, inadequate staffing level, high staff turn over, especially in the departments. The limitation of skilled and experienced staff in departments and at the regional level also contributes to the complicated problem. Strategic objectives were not SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely) and prioritized. At the same time, departments did not have their strategic decentralization of responsibilities were low.

The third obstacle is that there is no firm policy commitment and a robust emphasis on implementing the policy set out in the environmental protection plan. Article 18 of the Somaliland Constitution mentions the environment: "the state shall give a special priority to the protection and safeguarding of the environment, which is essential for the well-being of the society, and to the care of the natural resources (Somaliland Government, 2001). Therefore, the law proposes and orders confronting any threat to the environment. Following the proposal of the law, several environmental laws are produced. Somaliland Environmental Management Law no: 79/2018 is the most comprehensive one, others including, National Environment Research and Disaster-preparedness (NERAD) Agency Law – Law No: 35 of 2006 (passed by both Houses in 2007), Law on the Prevention of Deforestation & Desertification (Law N: 04/1998), Ministerial Programme on marine reserves and conservation April 2004, and Wildlife & Forest conservation. Despite the several environmental laws, their practical implementation remains questionable. Lack of sufficient political commitment for reforms in the environment sector rests critically on implementing environmental plans (MoERD, 2017). The Somaliland Environmental Strategic Plan (2017-2021) discusses weak policy framework and laws implementation as common weaknesses that may hinder achieving the desired goals.

Although the above challenges are prominent, there are other barriers to achieving tangible results in environmental goals. It is impossible to reconcile the ministry's ecological policy plans and actions far below their plans. Somaliland government needs to make balanced and achievable plans, rather than a program that does not go beyond what is written in the book and is not implemented. As evidenced by plans and environmental policies that have not been successful over the years, a comprehensive national strategy must be needed, saving future generations' environment.

VI. POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN SOMALILAND

In general, countries and international organizations worldwide are working to prevent and reduce the risk of environmental challenges. So, each country has developed a plan that suits its environmental needs with international guidelines to follow. Global Millennium Development Goal's seventh goal was to "ensure environmental sustainability by 2015". Although this plan has not been entirely successful, it has become necessary to move towards the Sustainable Development Goals, which aim to be achieved by 2030. Although this plan has not been successful, it has become necessary to move towards the Sustainable Development Goals, which aim to be achieved by 2030. Achieving environmental solutions is central to international plans. As Somaliland takes advantage of these international initiatives, there is a need for a more careful, scientific, and realistic approach to addressing the environment.

To achieve a safe environment for the people of Somaliland, the government and environmental agencies need to take several steps, which can contribute to solving environmental problems in Somaliland. Somaliland is one of the world's poorest countries, lacks international recognition, and is regarded as Somalia. It experiences traditional environmental challenges that are different from those developed countries, which comes from industrial production, exploitation of resources, air pollution, etc. This article proposes various solutions that can be a potential solution to environmental problems in Somaliland.

The first step is to develop a comprehensive national plan for environmental protection policy. While there are policies for the environment, more needs to be done. As learned from previous plans' experience to implement, it was challenging to find a strong political commitment to environmental protection that achieves the desired environmental ambitions. The plan must be SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, reliable, ambitious. Participants in the planning process should not merely be the heads of public and private institutions. However, it should include the people directly involved in environmental degradation: those cutting down trees to make charcoal, pastoralists overgrazing the land, and people dumping rubbish. Everyone in the community group must be involved in developing an environmental safety plan. Participating in this plan with diverse communities increases the sense of ownership of the environment, leading to full collective responsibility. If they are not involved, it makes them feel that this plan is superficial and not based on their interests. Thus, developing a well-developed national plan remains the most urgent need to confront environmental challenges in Somaliland.

The second step is to allocate an appropriate budget for environmental issues in Somaliland. Although the budget is limited, it is essential to increase the budget allocated for ecology, which is unacceptable currently allocated less than 1.3% of the total budget. In terms of funds for past environmental plans, it is nowhere near the planned projects. On the other hand, it is far less of an ecological problem in the country. To make matters worse, the funds allocated for implementing these plans are not usually in the government's hands but are expected from international donors.

Generally, business people control most of Somaliland's economy. The government is required to engage with the businessmen and involve them in environmental conservation. Suppose the government has a clear plan and mobilizes the businessmen. In that case, it is more likely to partake in environmental protection through fund donations. In the same way, community engagement can play an inevitable role to fundraise for the environment. As is often the case, communities independently organize and help each other with their funds through religious elders or other honourable members in the event of a drought or disaster. Thus, the government can utilize this tradition and enhance those activities into environmental risk mitigation instead of responding following the disasters. There is also an opportunity to organize and utilize the religious leaders—the most respected and trusted social institution. Religious leader's voices reach far beyond other institutions; the government can take this opportunity and make religious leaders' voices a fundraising tool.

Finally, this article proposes to improve the skills and knowledge of people working on environmental issues. Improving the skills of local staff will make it easier to investigate real environmental problems. It also brings solutions to environmental problems. It is a fact that one of the obstacles to success in environmental issues was the limited professionalism of the staff. Thus, having highly skilled staff is an added advantage for the government, and the government should build the staff's capacity. After increasing the staff's skills and knowledge, it is better to decentralize the ministry's activities currently limited to major cities. All activities of the ministry should be extended to the village level. Having a staff equipped with the skills and knowledge will ensure that the small number of resources allocated to the environment is managed efficiently and produces the best results.

VII. CONCLUSION

In general, as is the world's case, environmental issues are attracting all governments' attention. Environmental problems are all-natural and human-made problems. The way of life in this modern world depends on much consumption, which paves the way for excessive production. Excessive productivity from economic competition is causing environmental degradation, air pollution and so on. The environmental problems in Somaliland are not based on the culture of excessive consumption. However, they are ancient as there are no industries in Somaliland. Somalis still live as they did in the past and are still primarily nomadic pastoralists.

Somaliland faces bulky critical environmental problems: deforestation, overgrazing, water scarcity, waste disposal, and climate change. Thus, increasing poverty, the increasing disparity in living standards between rural and urban, health risks and food crisis are the most significant consequences of the environmental problems. If we glimpse at the environmental policies in Somaliland, many gaps need to be filled. Although many laws or policies have been enacted to protect the environment, they have often not been as successful as expected. The main reasons for these plans' failure are the low economy to implement these plans, the inadequate skills and knowledge of environmentalist staff and a lack of political commitment to environmental conservation.

In conclusion, this article makes a recommendation for environmental conservation in Somaliland. The article argues that following these three recommendations will go a long way in saving the environment in Somaliland. First, establishing an appropriate budget for the scope of environmental conservation activities, in collaboration with all Somalilanders, through national fundraising. Second, developing a comprehensive plan includes all stakeholders, government officials, non-governmental organizations, and residents. Finally, building the capacity of environmental staff and decentralizing responsibilities to residents and prioritizing planned activities.

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