

ENVIRONMENTAL PEACEBUILDING

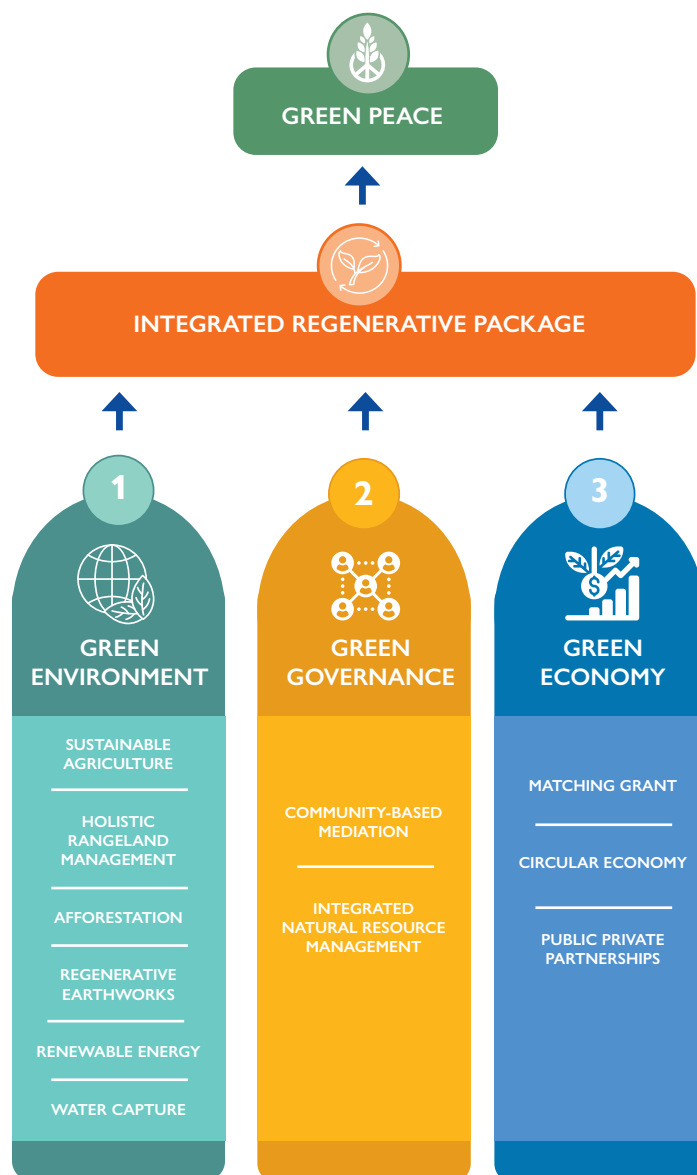
IOM SOMALIA



PEACE AND STABILITY THROUGH GREEN ENVIRONMENT, GREEN GOVERNANCE AND GREEN ECONOMY ACTION IN UNSTABLE AND NEWLY RECOVERED AREAS IN SOMALIA

IOM's Environmental Peacebuilding programming recognizes the interlinkages between environmental sustainability, conflict prevention, and peacebuilding. This lies in the understanding that environmental issues can exacerbate existing conflicts and act as potential triggers for new conflicts. Addressing environmental challenges can promote sustainable peace by fostering cooperation, addressing root causes of conflict, and promoting inclusive and equitable development.

The environment is often at the center of resource-based conflicts, such as competition over water, land, and natural resources. Conflicts related to these resources can be detrimental to human security, exacerbate poverty and inequality, and impede long-term development and stability. By integrating green economy, green governance, and green environment activities, environmental peacebuilding programming seeks to address these challenges holistically. The integrated package approach allows IOM to address the complex and interconnected challenges that often underlie conflicts related to the environment. Rather than implementing isolated interventions, this holistic approach fosters synergies between different activities and actors, enhancing their collective impact on peacebuilding efforts. IOM ensures that its environmental peacebuilding activities are conducted with an inclusive and participatory approach. Local communities, especially those affected by conflicts and environmental issues, are involved in the planning and implementation processes. By adopting this approach, IOM aims to effectively contribute to fostering resilience, peace, and sustainable development in unstable, conflict-affected, and newly recovered areas from Al-Shabaab in Somalia.



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GREEN ENVIRONMENT

IOM is actively involved in environmental protection and conservation efforts in unstable, conflict-afflicted, and newly recovered areas affected by the Al Shabaab insurgency in Somalia. The goal of IOM's green environment initiatives is to promote peace and stability by addressing environmental stressors that can contribute to conflict and displacement. Environmental degradation, resource scarcity, and climate change can exacerbate existing tensions and lead to mass migrations and forced displacement.

Through its green environment initiatives, IOM implements a range of activities that form part of the integrated regenerative package aimed at addressing environmental challenges and promoting peace in these regions through regenerative, sustainable, innovative yet primarily low-tech approaches. These activities, when implemented together or in combination, can have significant positive impacts on soil health, the environment, rangeland management, agriculture, energy, waste management, and water management among others. By investing in these activities, IOM plays a crucial role in protecting the environment, enhancing resilience in conflict-affected communities, and contributing to long-term peace and stability in the region.

REGENERATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

- Permaculture Design
- Crop Rotation
- Tree Intercropping
- No-till and reduced tillage
- Cover cropping
- Composting and organic waste recycling



HOLISTIC RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

- Regenerative grazing
- Holistic rangeland management



AFFORESTATION

- Afforestation
- Community-based tree planting



REGENERATIVE EARTHWORKS

- Soil Bunds
- Swales on Contour
- Erosion control
- Restoration of degraded lands



RENEWABLE ENERGY

- Solar Power
- Eco-Stoves
- Biodigesters



WATER CAPTURE

- Rooftop Water Harvesting
- Water conservation practices
- Rainwater Harvesting Ponds
- Water efficient-irrigation

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GREEN GOVERNANCE

IOM's green governance approach focuses on strengthening governance structures and institutions responsible for managing environmental resources. In regions affected by instability, conflict, or recently recovered from Al Shabaab, environmental resources can be a source of tension and contention among communities. IOM's efforts are tailored to each location based on community dynamics and the state and type of natural resources available. By empowering and facilitating local institutions and communities to addressing resource-related conflicts, and equitably and sustainably managing natural resources, IOM aims contributes to fostering peace and stability in the region, while supporting sustainable development and climate resilience.

COMMUNITY-BASED MEDIATION

This approach involves proactively engaging in community-based mediation processes to promote peaceful conflict resolution where tensions over natural resources persist. By facilitating dialogue and involvement at the grassroots level, IOM aims to address disputes in a way that empowers local communities and fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility for conflict resolution. A relevant case illustrating IOM's green governance approach is the conflict between pastoralists and farmers in Muriale, located in the Balad District of Somalia. Tensions arose when pastoralists would take their livestock to the river for their herds to drink water, unintentionally trampling and destroying the crops of farmers. In response, IOM stepped in and supported a local facilitator respected by both parties to facilitate a dialogue between the leaders and relevant stakeholders of the concerned pastoralist and farming communities. By providing a neutral platform for communication, both parties managed to express their concerns, needs, and perspectives. Through this facilitated dialogue, a 12-point agreement and action plan were developed, serving as a framework for resolving the conflict and addressing its underlying causes. The key success in this case was the creation of a sense of shared responsibility and mutual understanding between the pastoralists and farmers. By actively involving the local communities in the decision-making process, trust was built and cooperation fostered, which ensured that the agreed-upon solutions were practical and acceptable to both parties.



Farmer and pastoralist dialogue in July 2022 in Muriale, Balad District, Somalia.

INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

IOM implements its green governance approach in areas where tensions over natural resources persist, aiming to foster unity and collaboration rather than exacerbating divisions. This approach involves understanding the significance of natural resources and harnessing their potential to interlink and unite communities with conflicting interests. By focusing on sustainable resource management and promoting dialogue among stakeholders, IOM seeks to address the root causes of resource-related conflicts and promote peaceful coexistence. One practical example of IOM's green governance approach is the management of canals used for irrigation. In regions where water is a scarce and contentious resource, properly managed canals can serve as a focal point for cooperation and reconciliation between communities with historical animosity. By establishing mechanisms for shared management and equitable water distribution, these canals can become bridges that connect different communities, fostering a sense of collective responsibility for the resource and promoting harmony. Another example pertains to rangelands utilized by pastoralists for grazing their livestock. When rangelands are degraded or encroached upon, the traditional transhumant routes of pastoralists may be disrupted, leading them to encroach on another community's territory. Such encroachments can easily escalate into conflicts over resources. However, through facilitated discussions and negotiations, agreements can be reached that benefit all parties involved in accessing and managing the rangelands. In both examples, IOM aims to facilitate the development of sustainable and mutually beneficial solutions that consider the interests of all parties involved.

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GREEN ECONOMY

IOM recognizes the significance of fostering economic interdependence and collaboration as crucial tools in addressing environmental challenges effectively, especially in areas that have been facing instability, conflicts, and are in the process of recovery from groups like Al Shabaab in Somalia. IOM's approach aims to promote sustainable and environmentally sound economic practices that can not only uplift local communities but also create collaborative economic linkages and interdependence among community members. The goal of IOM's efforts is to strike a balance between environmental conservation and economic development. By doing so, they can help build resilient communities that are better equipped to withstand the adverse impacts of environmental challenges while also ensuring economic prosperity and stability. To achieve these objectives, IOM employs three key pathways within its green economy activities.

MATCHING GRANTS

The Matching Grant Mechanism is a co-funding initiative that is community-driven and government led to implement projects aimed at addressing environmental degradation and mitigating the impacts of climate change. Under this mechanism, IOM provides financial support in the form of grants to communities, which they must match with their own resources or funds from other sources. This co-funding approach ensures that local communities have a vested interest in the success of the project and encourages active participation in environmentally sustainable initiatives. The projects supported through the matching grant mechanism can include the development of eco-friendly infrastructure, the promotion of sustainable goods and services, and initiatives that enhance environmental conservation efforts. For instance, communities may undertake projects



Solar Streetlights implemented through Matching Grant by women university students in Abudwawk District of Somalia in January 2023.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

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PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

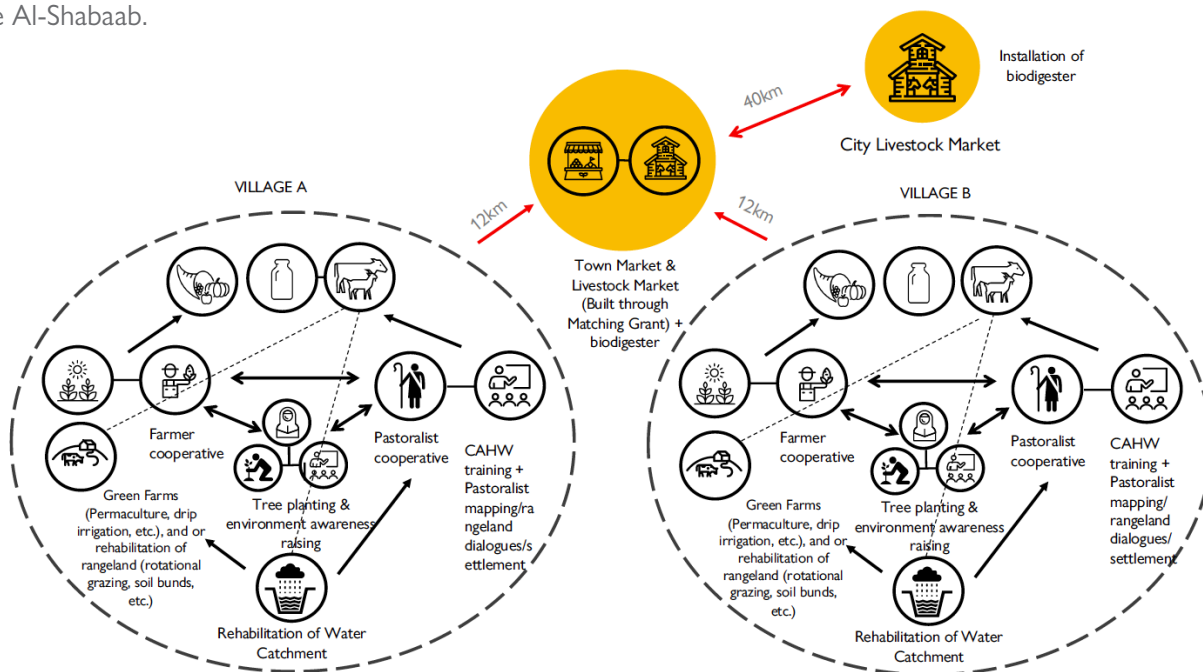
IOM collaborates with both the public and private sectors to promote environmentally friendly initiatives. An example of this is the solarization of privately owned boreholes, where IOM facilitates partnerships between the government and the private sector to install solar panels. The solar panels, owned by the government, enable water extraction from the boreholes, which can then be sold at a decreased rate, benefitting the communities.

INTEGRATED REGENERATIVE PACKAGE TOWARDS GREEN PEACE



INTEGRATED REGENERATIVE PACKAGE OF ACTIVITIES

In the context of resource-based conflicts, where competition over water, land, and natural resources can have severe implications for human security, poverty, inequality, and stability, environmental peacebuilding offers a comprehensive approach to address these challenges. The integrated regenerative package of activities, consisting of green economy, green governance, and green environment activities is a systems approach that demands programmatic inputs containing feedback loops to reinforce internal coherence and predictability. The integrated package can include a combination of activities outlined under green environment, green governance and green economy whereby the output of one activity serves as the input of the next activity. These activities, when implemented together or in combination, can have significant positive impacts on an environmental sounds economy, governance and ecosystem further fostering sustainability and peace in conflict-affected regions of Somalia, particularly those recovering from the influence of groups like Al-Shabaab.



GOAL: GREEN PEACE

The goal of achieving a 'green peace' is to promote environmental peacebuilding by integrating green economy, green governance, and green environment activities in conflict-affected areas, with a focus on regions recovering from the influence of Al-Shabaab in Somalia. Environmental peacebuilding seeks to address the root causes of conflicts related to natural resources, such as water, land, and other resources, which often lead to competition, poverty, inequality, and instability. Ultimately, achieving 'green peace' involves creating a harmonious and sustainable relationship between humans and the environment, recognizing that environmental well-being is essential for long-term stability, development, and the overall human security of conflict-prone areas.