

## **PROJECT PROPOSAL**

**PROPOSAL TO ENGAGE LOCAL COMMUNITIES, YOUTHS IN LEARNING INSTITUTIONS TO ACHIEVE AND STRENGTHEN SUSTAINABLE WAYS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, FARMING AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE.**

### **Prepared by;**

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**Address:** Mogadishu- Somalia

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**ENGAGEING LOCAL COMMUNITIES, YOUTHS IN LEARNING INSTITUTIONS TO ACHIEVE AND STRENGTHEN SUSTAINABLE WAYS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, FARMING AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE.**

**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**1.1. Project title**

Involving local communities, youths in learning institutions to achieve and strengthen sustainable ways of environmental conservation, farming and adaptation to climate change.

**1.2. Project locations**

This project will be carried out mainly in the urban regions of Banadir Region, Lower Shabelle, Galmudug Region & Jubaland. The reason being this are the regions with large populations of human settlements, high number of learning institutions and easily accessible for the project activities.

**1.3. Implementing agent**

Horn of Africa Research Company

**1.4. Mission**

Honest, active, and deliberate youth and farming communities engagement for sustainable food production and sustainable environment.

**1.5. Vision**

To build communities which are environmentally conscious, self-sustaining, self-reliant, poverty-free, well-informed.

**1.6. Core values**

To create communities that work for both the present and future generation, we are guided by the following values: honesty, integrity, information sharing, teamwork, action-oriented, and accountability.

**1.7. Long term goal**

Build self-sustaining, self-reliant, poverty-free, well-informed and environmentally conscious communities.

**1.8. Objectives**

- To empower communities and the youth to create a safer, healthier, cleaner, and greener environment.

- To alleviate poverty through building, strengthening, and empowering the communities to produce adequate amounts of food without destroying the environment.

#### **1.9. Activities**

- Sensitization and Awareness creation
- Tree planting
- Training of farmers
- Follow-up of farmers
- Information sharing and network
- Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

#### **1.10. Beneficiaries**

The primary focus of this project are the communities in both rural & urban settings and the schools. The farmers in these communities constitutes 70% of the region's population, with majority of this population being the youth who are less than 30 years of age and women. Agricultural practices in this region are largely subsistence and marked by traditional approaches such as bush burning, deforestation and uninformed use of fertilizers. The explicit zones to be covered by this project will be Banadir Region, Galmudug Region and Jubaland.

## **2. PROBLEM STATEMENT**

The drought emergency in Somalia has intensified following an unprecedented fourth consecutive failed rainy season. In response, humanitarian partners have launched the Drought Response and Famine Prevention Plan to facilitate the scaling up of life-saving, life-sustaining assistance to prevent famine. The plan involves a five-pronged approach centred around prioritization, coordination, integrated and rapid response, and response monitoring. As of 30 June, the severe drought had affected more than 7 million people, an increase from 6.1 million in May, with over 805,000 displaced. Eight areas are facing a heightened risk of localized famine if widespread crop and livestock production fail, prices of commodities continue to rise, and humanitarian assistance fails to reach the most vulnerable people. Human and community survival is inextricably linked to the natural environment in many ways. But, human activities in Somalia and most especially the Banadir Region, Jubaland & Galmudug is probably responsible for the degenerating level of the natural habitat and the general environment.

Population influx due to the refugee influx in different regions within Banadir, Jubaland and Galmudug regions are partly to blame for the massive pressure placed on the natural environment in search for settlement and arable land. This has encouraged drastic felling of trees and loss of green cover and subsequently resulted into uncontrolled erosion and desertification.

Additionally, the prolonged insecurities in the regions are partially responsible for the high level of poverty and hunger experienced by these communities. This in effect has resulted into extreme cutting down of trees for both firewood and commercial purpose as seen in the increased trading of coal and timber. Thus, exacerbating the level greenhouse gases in the atmosphere as the green cover is reduced.

Further, the displacement of these communities during the war also accounts for the low level of education often demonstrated in poor agricultural practices such as bush burning, and deforestation. These communities show demonstrable lack of awareness and information on the agricultural scientific inventions as well as the dangers elicited by the use of agricultural chemicals on both the agricultural products and the environment.

The rampant use and poor disposal of plastics and polythene accounts for the reduced food productivity in the region. This is directly linked to the effects of plastics and polythene disposed of on arable land and thus degenerating its fertility. Therefore, such uninformed practices expose the soil to dangerous poisonous chemicals and consequently reduces its productive quality over time thus poor yields and eventually subjecting households to food insecurity, poverty and hunger.

Pollution of air, soil and water due to the uninformed human activities inextricably results in poor human health. On the other hand, the burning of plastics and polythene in open spaces is responsible for air and water pollution in this region especially given that they depend on open water sources such as rivers, streams and wells for domestic use. This is responsible for adverse health effects such as disruption of the hormone, nervous and immune systems. We acknowledge that some of these activities are undertaken due to extreme poverty that leaves these communities with no alternative options.

As such we take a deliberate and a more action-oriented approach with the youth and the communities to remedy these challenges. Our approach seeks to inform, sensitize and empower the youth and the general population on the practical and context-specific sustainable mechanisms of environmental management and food production.

Therefore, through our partnership together with AGROBIOTEK-INGENIERIE, we hope to plant more trees of Hydrogel species that will help to improve this situation by raising communities' and youths' awareness and understanding of their responsibility towards themselves, the ecosystem and the future generations.

### 3. **JUSTIFICATION**

Horn of Africa Research Company & Agrobiotek - Ingenierie believe that active youth and community engagement and empowerment will not only stimulate productivity and environmental protection but will most importantly preserve the natural environment for generations to come.

Horn of Africa Research Company & Agrobiotek - Ingenierie also believe that the empowerment initiatives will deepen the understanding of both the youth and the general population on how to sustainably use the available natural resources such as water and soil without straining it or depleting it.

Horn of Africa Research Company & Agrobiotek - Ingenierie believe that active involvement of the population in activities such as tree planting and waste disposal will enhance community ownership and make it self-sustaining. Contrary to interventionist approaches that take services to the people, our strategies entail active participation of the youth and the communities. This approach is sustainable since it stimulates societal and individual responsibility for the environment.

Horn of Africa Research Company & Agrobiotek - Ingenierie believe that by empowering the population with information on the contextual causes and effects of climate change, they will not only adjust their practices, but these pieces of information will guide their decision-making processes thus ensuring posterity.

Horn of Africa Research Company & Agrobiotek - Ingenierie believe that through training of farmers specifically and the population generally, the communities will adopt farming practices which environmentally friendly and sustainable. Adopting these methods will restore and strengthen soil fertility, enhance ecosystem balance, reduce air, soil and water pollution and boost agricultural production.

Horn of Africa Research Company & Agrobiotek - Ingenierie hope to create a youth population that is empowered and enlightened through school debates and sensitization talks and create communities which are self-sustaining, self-reliant, productive, poverty-free environmentally conscious. These communities will result from our deliberate and active

engagement of communities in trainings, farm visits and awareness talks. It is our commitment to promote sustainable farming and endear climate change adaptation strategies amongst the youth and farmers as a means of strengthening the communities towards self-sufficient living and ultimately sustainable development.

Horn of Africa Research Company & Agrobiotek - Ingenierie hope to foster the development of sustainable agricultural and environmental practices nationally and internationally, but financial limitation is our main challenge. Finding a financial partner with adequate capacity to fund our projects and activities will boost our potential to cover the Banadir, Jubaland, Galmudug and lower Shabelle regions and beyond. Consequently, it will deepen our community and school penetration while effectively impacting society positively.

#### **4. EXPECTED OUTPUT**

Horn of Africa Research Company & Agrobiotek - Ingenierie hope to organize quarterly (4) workshops annually for 40 key community members in 10 - Banadir, 10 - Jubaland, 10 - Galmudug and 10 - Lower Shabelle regions and leaders on Environmental Conservation, sustainable farming and climate change adaptation. Through these workshops issues, causes and effects will be discussed, management of plastics and polythene, and correct way of solid waste disposal will be extensively discussed.

This project aims to train 100 Agricultural extension officers (25 - Banadir, 25 - Jubaland, 25 - Galmudug and 25 - lower Shabelle regions) for one year and who will directly go and train farmers in the villages on better ways to carry out agricultural activities. Follow up will be made to assist the farmers adopt and implement the ideas.

Horn of Africa Research Company & Agrobiotek - Ingenierie hope to plant 25,000 (6,250 per region) hydrogel tree species annually within the community and schools in the four regions (Jubaland, Galmudug, Lower& Middle Shabelle). This tree species will help to improve the green cover as well as mitigate the level carbon dioxide (greenhouse gas) in the atmosphere.

Horn of Africa Research Company & Agrobiotek - Ingenierie plan to bring on board a group of 5 environmental conservation specialist and have discussions to enlighten communities through live TV and Radio discussion through mass media. This will be possible by booking

and buy one hour of air time for discussions in the regional media stations. This will be done quarterly basis.

Horn of Africa Research Company & Agrobiotek - Ingenierie hope to engage 100 schools (25 - Banadir, 25 - Jubaland, 25 - Galmudug and 25 - lower Shabelle regions), form 40 environmental conservation clubs in each region i.e 10 - Banadir, 10 - Jubaland, 10 - Galmudug and 10 - Lower Shabelle regions and organize writing competitions and debates amongst students on climate change and generally on environmental management. This will create a generation of enlightened citizens and future leaders.

#### **5. MEASURE OF SUCCESS**

Success of our projects will be measured based on the pre-set targets within the defined time frame and change in behaviour. These shall include the following:

- The number of training workshops organized, and the number of farmers trained.
- The number of awareness meetings conducted in schools and communities
- The number trees planted in schools and communities.
- The number of debating competitions held in schools, and the number of participating schools.
- The number of environmental clubs formed in schools, and the number students involved in their activities.
- Behavioral change in farming practices and waste disposal

#### **6. IMPACT**

The long-term success of our project will be defined by the following attributes.

- Improved standards of living associated with reduced poverty, improved agricultural productivity, better health standards, and an informed society.
- Increased tree cover, reduced levels of air, soil, and water pollution, improved methods of waste disposal and reduced incidences of floods and drought.

#### **7. PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY**

The longevity and sustainability of our projects will be enhanced through the following ways.

- Active engagement and involvement of farmers during the trainings will ensure that they master the skills to shape their farming practice. These practical skills will endear

in the farmers a sense of ownership for natural resources and the environment at large.

- Sensitization and involvement of both the youth and community members in tree planting and general environmental protection will provide room for checks and balances. But most importantly, the youth as the custodian of the future will make informed choices which will protect the environment.
- Formation of environmental clubs in schools and community farmers' groups will ensure that the vital information and knowledge continue to flow from one generation to the next.
- The engagement of schools and communities will also ensure that the trees are nurtured and sustained. Though most importantly, the schools and communities will take ownership of the projects implemented in their jurisdiction.
- Our engagement and involvement of local leaders, regional governments and NGOs will enable these partners to have a sense of ownership of the project and as such they will support the project by encouraging sustainability and protections by maybe enacting legislations.

## **8. RISKS**

The risks that surround the development of these undertakings includes:

- Some of the trained farmers may revert to their old ways of farming.
- Unfavorable weather conditions such as long spells of drought and floods may impact the agricultural activities.
- Unchecked cutting down of trees by foreign agencies may change the community's attitudes towards tree planting.
- Disintegration of farmer groups and school clubs may pose follow up challenges and information sharing.

## **9. ASSUMPTIONS**

The project assumes the following:

- The community members will have an interest in sustainable farming methods.
- The social, economic, political and weather conditions will be favorable for sensitization, training, and most importantly acceptance and execution of the ideas.



- Our partnership will pursue the project mandate without changing the focus and the mission.

## 10. **SCOPE OF WORK**

### **Strategies**

Below are the major activities that will be undertaken and they include:

#### 10.1. **Raising/Creation of Awareness**

The all students in universities, secondary & Primary schools and community will be sensitized on the causes and effects of climate change and consequently, the community needs to be enlightened on environmental dangers associated with traditional farming, human activities, and the availability of alternative farming approaches. To achieve this, we shall employ different methods and media which will include: school talks, TV and Radio talk shows, field days, posters, social media, visits to existing farmers' groups. During this stage, interested students and farmers will be assisted to form manageable clubs and groups respectively and the training details and action plans will be set. This will also entail debates and writing competitions on climate change and sustainable farming by school children at different levels.

#### 10.2. **Tree planting**

Tree planting activities will be done in schools and the communities within the region. School children and the community members will actively participate in the exercise and be encouraged to nurture the trees for posterity. Different varieties of trees will be planted but majorly the **Hydrogel tree** which has been research on by students of plasma university and it has been proven to be growing very well in the arid land with very little water & moisture contents. Restoration tree planting in streets, school compounds together with the surrounding community members will be part of this exercise.

#### 10.3. **Training of farmers**

The farmers will be trained on varied aspects of sustainable farming, soil and water management, plastics and polythene management. The trainings will embody discussions, sharing of experiences, demonstrations of skills and best practices, and participatory on-farm experience. The key concepts for the training will include:

- Techniques for soil improvement
- Methods of Soil Conservation

- Crop Rotation and Farm Management
- Agroforestry and Environment Conservation
- Plastics and polythene management

#### **10.4. Follow-Up of farmers**

Continuous engagement with the farmers will enable smooth transition to sustainable practices. These regular visits will provide guidance, advice and motivation to the farmers. These will also boost the community members in coming up with varied sustainable livelihood initiatives. This follow-up exercise will open new ground for demonstration farm visits by different community farmers' groups and substantially enhance the sharing of best practices.

#### **10.5. Information sharing and Networking**

We hope to work very closely with other like-minded institutions and organizations to improve on efficiency in service delivery. Through these approaches, we will also learn from other institutions and may enable us to play a complementary role to others and mitigate duplication.

We hope to participate in relevant meetings, conferences and workshops to gather knowledge and information, and strengthen our practice within the sector. We hope to be part of the policy preparation and change, advocacy and public awareness on topical issues across the different networks.

We will share the relevant experiences, ideas and information gathered during our discussions with the school children and community members through different strategies including print and online media and consequently enable the farmers to share their views, feelings and ideas.

#### **10.6. Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting**

The project activities will be followed up regularly, documented, reported, and discussed by the management and staff on a progressive basis.

The records will be stored and prepared for auditing. Progress and general reports will be safely kept and only shared with the boards, the funding agencies, and other relevant partners and subsequently used for project evaluations.

We shall evaluate our project success annually and assess the extent to which the annual targets are met. During this stage, we will analyse the project enablers and challenges and lay ground for the following year.



## 12. PROJECT ANNUAL BUDGET

### Budget Breakdown

Activity Line Items	Description	Unit Description	No. of Unit/ Item/ Person	Cost per Unit	Number of Event	Total (in USD)
We hope to organize quarterly, 5 days workshops annually for 40 key community members in 10 - Banadir, 10 - Jubaland, 10 - Galmudug and 10 - Lower Shabelle regions and leaders on Environmental Conservation, sustainable farming and climate change adaptation.	Training Hall with Full facilities	Unit	Lumsump	\$ 400.00	4	\$ 1,600.00
	Meals (Lunch buffet)	Person	12	\$ 30.00	4	\$ 1,440.00
	Facilitators Fee	Person	2	\$ 500.00	4	\$ 4,000.00
	Accommodation and Travel (Facilitators)	Person	2	\$ 300.00	4	\$ 2,400.00
	Stationeries Costs	Pcs	Lumsump	\$ 300.00	4	\$ 1,200.00
	Visibility Banners	Pcs	2	\$ 50.00	4	\$ 400.00
	<b>Sub-Total</b>					
This project aims to train over 100 Agricultural extension officers (25 - Banadir, 25 - Jubaland, 25 - Galmudug and 25 - lower Shabelle regions) for one year.	Training Hall with Full facilities	Unit	Lumsump	\$ 400.00	4	\$ 1,600.00
	Catering Service (Lunch buffet)	Person	27	\$ 30.00	4	\$ 3,240.00
	Accommodation and Travel	Person	2	\$ 300.00	4	\$ 2,400.00
	Facilitators Fee	Person	2	\$ 500.00	4	\$ 4,000.00
	Stationeries Costs	Pcs	Lumsump	\$ 300.00	4	\$ 1,200.00
	Visibility Banners	Pcs	2	\$ 50.00	4	\$ 400.00
	<b>Sub-Total</b>					
We hope to plant 25,000 (6,250 per region) hydrogel tree species annually within the community and schools in the four regions (Jubaland, Galmudug, Lower& Middle Shabelle).	Seedlings	Pcs	6,250	\$ 5.00	4	\$ 125,000.00
	Transport costs for seedlings	Unit	Lumsump	\$ 500.00	4	\$ 2,000.00
	<b>Sub-Total</b>					
We plan to bring on board a group of 5 environmental conservation specialist and have discussions to enlighten communities through live TV and Radio discussion through mass media. This will be possible by booking and buy one hour of air time for discussions in the regional media stations. This will be done quarterly basis.	TV Spot	Session	Lumsump	\$ 260.80	4	\$ 1,043.20
	Radio air time	Session	Lumsump	\$ 187.50	4	\$ 750.00
	Environmental Conservation specialist Allowances	Session	Lumsump	\$ 150.00	4	\$ 600.00
	Refreshments Costs	Session	Lumsump	\$ 120.00	4	\$ 480.00
<b>Sub Total</b>						<b>\$ 1,793.20</b>
We hope to engage 100 schools (25 - Banadir, 25 - Jubaland, 25 -	Refreshments (Soda & Water)	Person	12	\$ 30.00	4	\$ 1,440.00

Galmudug and 25 - lower Shabelle regions), form 40 environmental conservation clubs in each region i.e. 10 - Banadir, 10 - Jubaland, 10 - Galmudug and 10 - Lower Shabelle regions and organize writing competitions and debates amongst students on climate change and generally on environmental management.	Facilitators Fee	Person	2	\$ 500.00	4	<b>\$ 4,000.00</b>
	Accommodation and Travel (Facilitators)	Person	2	\$ 300.00	4	<b>\$ 2,400.00</b>
	Stationeries Costs	Pcs	Lumsump	\$ 300.00	4	<b>\$ 1,200.00</b>
	Visibility Banners	Pcs	2	\$ 50.00	4	<b>\$ 400.00</b>
<b>Sub Total</b>						<b>\$ 9,440.00</b>
We hope to get Hydrogel Seedling as follows: Dry & Frozen Hydrogel seedling	Dry Hydrogel seedling	Kgs (S)	10	\$ 2,700.00	4	<b>\$ 108,000.00</b>
	Frozen Hydrogel seedling	Kgs (S)	10	\$ 1,500.00	4	<b>\$ 60,000.00</b>
<b>Sub Total</b>						<b>\$ 168,000.00</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>						<b>\$ 330,113.20</b>