

SOMALIA



Source: esri

General

Somalia - officially the Federal Republic of Somalia - is located in the Horn of Africa. It is bordered by Ethiopia in the West, Djibouti in the Northwest, the Gulf of Aden in the North, the Indian Ocean in the East, and Kenya in the Southwest. The country has a land area of 63.8 Mha (million hectares) with, in 2024, a population of 19.0 million, or 0.30 persons per ha (Wikipedia and United Nations, 2024).

Climate and geography

Climatically, hot conditions prevail year-round, with periodic monsoon winds and irregular rainfall. Unlike the climates of most other countries at this latitude, conditions in Somalia range from arid in the Northeastern and Central regions to semi-arid in the Northwest and South. In the Northeast, annual rainfall is less than 100 mm; in the Central Plateaus, it is about 200 to 300 mm. The northwestern and southwestern parts of the country, however, receive considerably more rain, with an average of 510 to 610 mm/year. The coastal regions are hot and humid throughout the year (source: Wikipedia).

Somalia's terrain consists mainly of plateaus, plains and highlands. Its coastline is more than 3,333 km in length, the longest of mainland Africa. In the far North, the rugged east–west ranges of the Ogo Mountains lie at varying distances from the Gulf of Aden coast (source: Wikipedia).

In a report by the World Bank (1981) mention is made of the construction of polders in the Lower Shebelli valley. However, no details are being given.

Existing polders

According to the Group Polder Development (1982) the Johar Sugar Estate is located in a polder of about 10,000 ha. Most probably this is the Jawhar Sugar Estate that can be identified north of Mogadishu.

General characteristics of the existing polder are shown in Table I.

Proposed polders

No proposed polders could be identified.

Location of the polder in Somalia as shown on the World polder map

The location of the polder in Somalia is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Location of the polder in Somalia (source: esri – Batavialand)

References

- Group Polder Development, Department of Civil Engineering, Delft University of Technology. 1982. *Polders of the World. Compendium of polder projects*. Delft, the Netherlands.
- World Bank, 1981. *Somalia agricultural sector review*. Report No. 2821a-SO. Eastern Africa Regional Office, Northern Agriculture Division.
- United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. 2024. *World population prospects, medium prognosis. The 2024 revision*. New York, USA.

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Table I. General characteristics of existing polder in Somalia

Name	Reclamation	Area in ha	Type *)	Latitudes	Longitudes	Elevation in m+MSL	Land use
Jawhar Sugar Estate		10,000	RLL	2° 46' N	45° 34' E	105	Sugar cane
Total		10,000					

*) RLL = reclaimed low-lying land; LGS = land gained on the sea; DL = drained lake