



## **SUSTAINABILITY FOUNDATION FOR NATURAL CONSERVATION (SFNC)**

### **ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE**

#### **1. Sustainability Foundation**

|                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Organizations Name</b>          | Sustainability Foundation for Nature Conservation (Sustainability Foundation)                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Registration status</b>         | Sustainability Foundation is registered at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor on 25 March, 2015 permit no. (1057).                                                                                           |
| <b>Physical location (offices)</b> | Main Office : Al-Mansora, Aden<br>Branches and coordination offices: Lahj, Hodidah, Sana'a, Taiz and Hadramout.                                                                                                    |
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| <b>Website</b>                     | Website: <a href="http://natural-snc.org">natural-snc.org</a>                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Contact person</b>              | Ms. Asmahan Saeed                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

#### **2. Background**

The year 2021 marks the beginning of the seventh year since the protracted conflict escalated in Yemen, leading to an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. The crisis led to further deterioration of an already alarming pre-existing context of community vulnerability and fragility. The protracted and multilayer crisis has dramatically altered the country's development trajectory and ability to sustain management of its national resources, maintain biological diversity and mitigate the climate change induced impacts.

Yemen climate and environmental crisis and risks to biodiversity have further exacerbated. Lack of opportunities and population displacement have intensified and led to overexploitation and competition over use and access to natural resources like water, land resources and ecosystems and loss of top soils due to unsustainable farming practices, incidents of hydrological risk (floods and cyclones) and extreme weather events (such as drought) and rise of locust attacks which has adversely impacted human lives and the environmental conditions.

The Sustainability Foundation adapted bottom up, integrated and inclusive livelihood approaches targeting and engaging hosting communities, IDPs and returnees in accessing opportunities to conserve natural resources while building resilience and coping mechanisms of the poor and bringing vulnerable and affected people together to reduce vulnerability, strengthen social cohesion and contribute to peace building.

Sustainability Foundation is a national Non-Governmental Organization, supporting livelihood approaches in water and land management, sustainable use of natural resources, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk management, renewable energy, hygiene and sanitation.

Sustainability Foundation was founded in *2015 building on a wealth of practical experience working as* technical volunteer groups in Aden, within a frame of wildlife conservation alliance, further partnering with NGOs in several governorates including Aden, Lahj, Hodidah, Sana'a, Taiz and Hadramout. The Sustainability Foundation was established in Aden City inculcating the technical expertise and maintaining professional networks working on resilience building, livelihoods and sustainable use and management of natural resources.

### **3. Vision of organization**

Integrated and inclusive livelihood approaches in use and management of natural resources through green solutions addressing pressing needs of vulnerable people and war-affected communities in crisis contexts while ensuring ability of the natural base to address the needs of future generations.

### **4. Mission**

Advocate green solutions sustaining natural resource bases and ensuring enhancement of the coping mechanisms of vulnerable people and war-affected communities.

## **5. Values**

Effective benefit sharing between the livelihood needs of the vulnerable people and war-affected communities and sustainable use and conservation of the natural resources

## **6. Motto**

Leave no one behind to make sure the needs of the vulnerable communities and war-affected people are addressed in an integrative and inclusive manner paving the way for their contribution in recovery efforts.

## **7. Focus Areas and Key Principles**

Sustainability Foundation operates within a broad alliance of civil society organizations promoting integrated and inclusive livelihood approaches in partnership with the official and public efforts at the national and regional levels.

Sustainability Foundation works closely both with partners and independently to undertake projects supporting livelihood approaches in water and land management, sustainable use of natural resources, sustainable agriculture and fisheries, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk management, renewable energy, hygiene and sanitation. The foundation has built capacities in conflict sensitive project design, planning, delivering results and monitoring.

Sustainability Foundation is committed and actively involves local communities, IDPs and host communities whose lives and livelihoods are linked to the natural ecosystems vulnerable to climate and natural disasters. At the core of its approach is to connect restoration and conservation of nature and natural risk reduction with equitable use and benefit sharing with clear ecological, livelihoods and economic impacts.

Sustainability Foundation provides quality, cost-effective services via strategic partnerships at all levels of government, industry, non-governmental organizations, private sector, and educational institutions. The foundation provides its partners and clients with project management services for the planning, administration, implementation and delivery of integrated and inclusive

livelihood projects and green solutions in crisis contexts for IDPs, host communities and war affected people.

Strategic partnership has been developed within the frame of “Alliances Groups” including a number of active partners in the county as well as the region. Regional networks and partners are involved as the case may require in all aspects of project management. Each partner maintains a resume database of skilled personnel available to work on local projects and is equipped to accommodate project employees. The foundation main office is responsible for overall oversight and management including and administrative services.

Sustainability Foundation is committed to improving access to opportunities and livelihoods means and addressing cross-cutting issues enable vulnerable people and war-affected communities will enable the local communities to manage risks and shocks with increased economic self-reliance and reduce pressure on scarce natural resources. The foundation is also committed to strengthen systems and capacities of local authorities, empowering enabling environments while also addressing the cross-cutting issues including youth and women.

Sustainability Foundation is focuses on supporting local communities towards self-resilience through addressing priority needs in crisis context, maximizing the possibility for greater impacts and fostering partnerships to achieve results that will enable communities to sustain and conserve natural resources and enable communities to cope with the impact of the current crisis and become strong drivers of the resilience-building and recovery efforts.

Sustainability Foundation promotes inclusiveness to ensure increasing the roles of women and youth in local decision-making and their access to opportunities. Active participation and engagement of women and youth is critical in peacebuilding and recovery in their communities, and benefit sharing efforts in addition to deter youth from taking up arms and prolonging the conflict.

Sustainability Foundation works closely with partners and independently to undertake projects supporting local communities through implementing agricultural projects such cash crops production, plants nurseries and agricultural land rehabilitation.

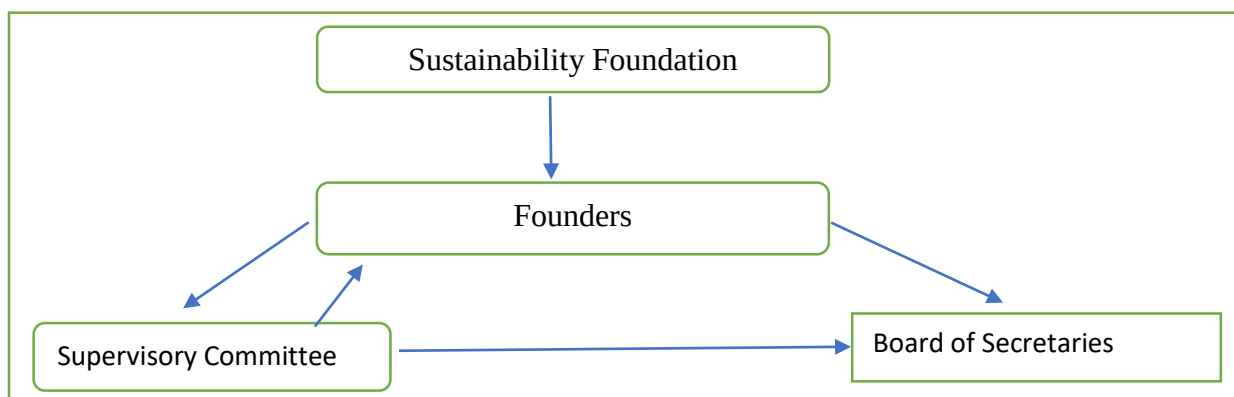
Sustainability Foundation contribute to support local communities during the spread of pandemic such cholera, typhoid, dengue and COVID-19 through awareness campaigns and distribution of protection gears and awareness raising materials to combat and reduce the spread of diseases.

## **8. Alliance and Networking Objectives**

- To provide timely relief assistance to disaster affected communities and assist them for their timely rehabilitation and early recovery (Disaster Risk Reduction).
- To promote Livelihoods and explore sustainable & disaster resilient livelihood options.
- To promote education and awareness with special focus on girls' education.
- To promote gender equality & women empowerment, and address gender-based violence issues.
- To provide accessible and clean drinking water and quality sanitation facilities and improvement of community physical infrastructure.
- To promote youth development and address the issues related to abuse and marginalization of children, adolescents and youth.

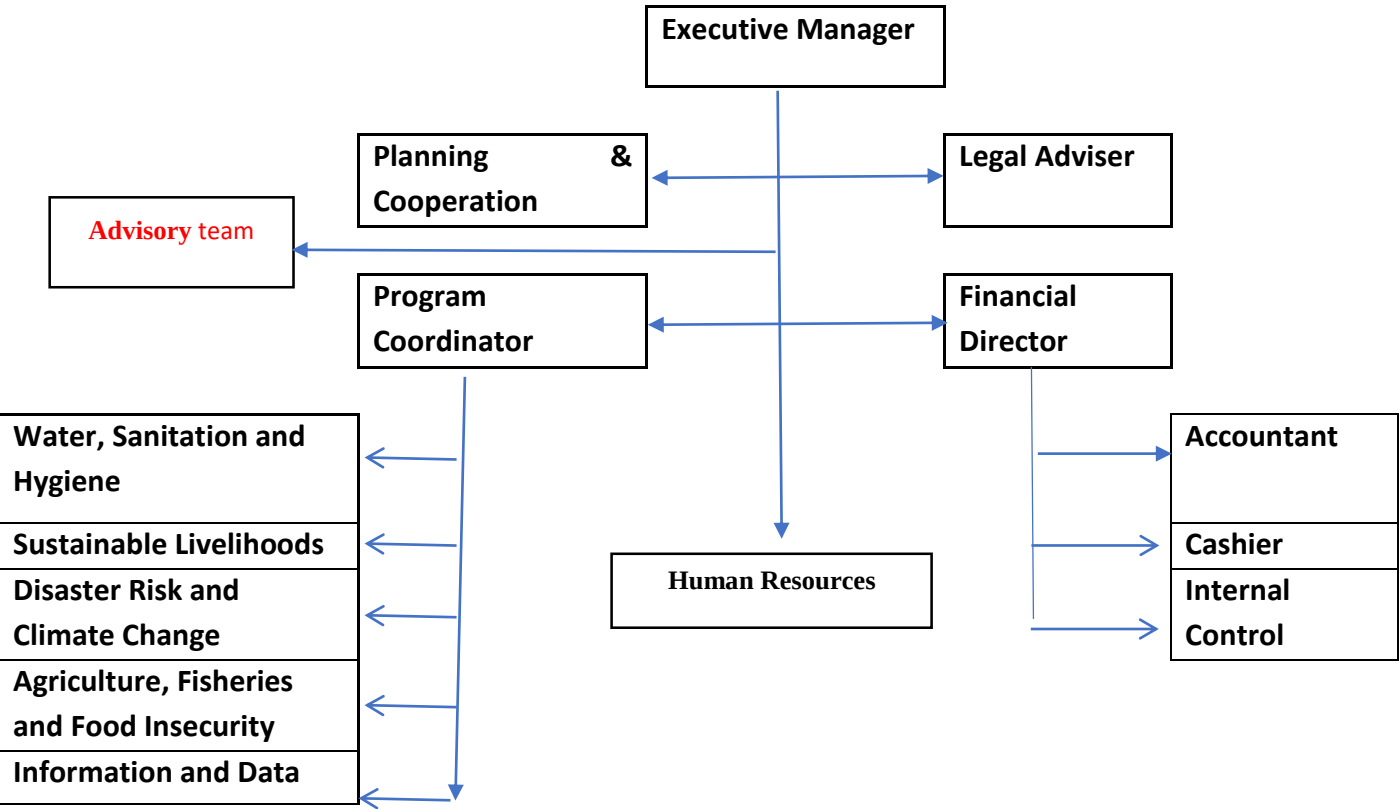
## 9. Structure of Sustainability Foundation

Sustainability Foundation has three main organs of decision-making consisting of the Founders, Board of Secretaries, and Supervisory Committee. The organizational structure of the foundation is as follows:



The founders - composed of 3 members - meet once a year quarterly. The Board of Secretaries consist of five members chaired by the Executive Manager who is responsible for day-to-day coordination of activities of the foundation. The committee gathers once a month and any more as deemed necessary. Key role of the committee is overall planning and stewarding the strategies and guide the technical work and staff. The foundation has more than teen employees undertaking the technical and support functions. However, the staffing is not limited to the current staffing. Additional staff will be recruited as work expands and needs arise. More than 50

volunteers' staff under request in addition more than 30 national experts. The Supervisory Committee provide guidance and advices to the Founders whereas the Board of Secretaries



### Advisory Team

The foundation team has a specialized and highly experienced advisory team in various environmental, developmental and social fields especially in sustainable livelihoods, resilience building, environmental protection, humanitarian and natural resource conservation, including agriculture, land conservation, and coastal areas eco-system. The team consists both male and female expertise. Women and youth are also the active members of the foundation and play key leadership positions. The foundation has more than 30 experienced consultants. The Advisory team consultants are engaged in a wide network across the country including universities professors, technicians, teachers and specialists.

## 9. Local Partners of Sustainability Foundation

- Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE)
- Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and EPA Branches.
- Agriculture Research and Extension Authority (AREA).
- Ministry of Health and Population
- The Ministry of Education, Aden Office
- Ministry of Social Affairs, Aden Office
- Aden University
- Ministry of Local Administration.
- Cleaning and Improvement Aden Fund
- Ministry of Fisheries - Marine Sciences Research Authority
- Alliance Groups



## 10. International and Regional Partners

- IUCN Member since 2019
- United National Development Program (UNDP)
- Birdlife International Regional Office (Jordan)
- United Nation Environment Program (UNEP – RAWA)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CPEF)
- the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)
- Environmentic Consultation Company (Jordan)

## 11. Programs & Key Achievements

### 11.1 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

The technical staff of Sustainability Foundation contributed with Watershed Management Foundation (WAM) to support local community in Jabal Al-Awi villages, Sana'a Governorate address climate change induced water shortages. Key activities were in rehabilitation of traditional water reservoirs and structures, introduction of innovative module for fog water harvesting, provision of water filters to improve water quality. More than 600 community members benefited from the initiatives. The fog water harvesting module was further replicated

widely in the surrounding communities. Additionally, several other activities on drink water quality were implemented in Jabal Al-Awee as well as on improved water storage capacities and availability specially relating to rehabilitation of drinking water wells and water transportation channels, and maintenance of water collection tanks. More than 450 community members benefited from the project.



In the field of Hygiene, the Foundation carried out many campaigns and activities such as distribution of brochures, posters, leaflets, and field awareness-raising (door-to-door) in addition to community awareness to control and prevent outbreaks of diseases such as cholera, typhoid and dengue fever. The Foundation also carried out many field activities contributing to preparedness and response to COVID-19, including awareness-raising activities, support isolation and home treatment of impacted patients in their homes, and supplying groups of the poor and vulnerable people with oxygen cylinders as a voluntary work, more than 60 patients benefited from this initiative.



The technical staff of Sustainability Foundation also contributed with WAM supported setting up of models for safe disposal of household sewage to avoid disease and pollution using local materials.

## 11.2 Sustainable Livelihoods

The foundation technical staff contributed in the setting up and operationalization of the community-based approach in management of Al-Heswah Protected Area in Aden. The protected area is one of the few conservation sites located in the middle of an urban area. It demonstrated a good and practical example of benefit sharing between conservation efforts and poverty reduction. The poor and vulnerable community members were brought together and organized in an association to plan and work in the development of





the protected area infrastructure including the expansion of the bird wetland and watching areas, routes and recreational structures, nursery and administration offices. All the protected area infrastructures were built utilizing local materials from the protected area sites. Women played key roles in management of the protected area. Women groups were also engaged in production and selling of handicrafts and products using environmental materials from the protected area. Furthermore, the women groups set up small micro-businesses enabling access to longer term income opportunities. The protected area collected entrance fees that enabled the local community members address their household needs and created interest to sustain and conserve the site. More than 700 community members benefited from the initiative of which almost 50% were women.



Sustainability Foundation carried out the cleaning up of the coastal line from plastic waste in 2017 and 2018 in collaboration and support from United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). More than 400 youth and school students participated in the campaigns.

The foundation called for urgent Initiative for relief the Taiz threatened animals in the zoo which was neglected during the crisis and war. Funds were mobilized from the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), in two slots in 2016 and 2020. The funding was used to provide emergency response to feed the zoo animals. The initiative has created awareness on the critical situation of the animals both at the national and international levels.

Painting competitions for Aden schools were organized during 2016-2017. The competitions supported awareness raising on critical issues such as public hygiene, plantation and sustainable agriculture.

The foundation organized Training of Trainers workshop on disasters and emergencies response for the representatives of the local institutions, communities and NGOs including youth and women in Aden, Lahj, Abyan and Al-Dalee Governorates in 2018.



The foundation technical team contributed in 2018 in collaboration with Environment Protection Authority with support from UNDP in the drafting of the Sixth National Report of the Biodiversity 2018 which submitted to Convention Biological Diversity(CBD), through organization and provision of technical expertise as well as documenting the role of women in biodiversity conservation and benefit sharing and livelihoods approaches for community-based conservation and use of natural products in Socotra.

The foundation carried out two social and environmental studies supported by the Environment Protection Authority to declare Al Azizi Island in Ras Amran Aden Governorate as nature reserve in 2017 as well as for declaration of Khor Omaira as marine reserve for feeding sea turtles in Lahj Governorate. Community-based livelihoods approaches were applied involving fisheries communities.



### 11.3 Disaster Risk and Climate Change

In collaboration and support with United Nation Development Program (UNDP), the foundation supported the local community and institutions on disaster risk management in Aden in 2019 including organized workshop on climate change and preparedness for rising sea levels in Aden coastal areas. The activities of the initiative including capacity building, development of guidelines for risk reduction and preparedness. The capacity building targeted local representative institutions, youth, media and NGOs on disaster risk reduction and preparedness. A safety procedure and manual has been produced to be used before, during and after disaster to ensure effective and urgent response and addressing of natural disasters. More than 1,000 copies of the manual were distributed. Furthermore, a training manual was production on climate change and its challenges of which 1500 copies were distributed. The initiative also including implementation of awareness programs for the general public through local radio within four sessions on climate change, natural disasters, resilience and adaptation measures to cope with climate changes and the expected impacts of sea level rise. In addition to organization of panel discussion for institutions, stockholders, decision makers, youth and women on preparedness and mitigation of natural disasters. As well as organization of awareness activities targeting 17,860 students in 17 schools in Aden focusing on the threats of climate change and mitigations and adaptation measures.



#### **11.4 Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Insecurity**

The technical staff contributed with WAM to support local community in Jabal Al-Awi villages, Sana'a Governorate in sustainable agriculture practices and improved productivity. Key activities were in introduction of home gardens focusing on plantation of fruits and vegetables, setting up of coffee nursery, revival of tradition practices in terraces-based coffee production, and grey water treatment for irrigation. More than 2200 community members benefited from the initiatives. The foundation also supported capacity building of the Ministry of Agriculture Office in Aden in December 2018. The training targeted 21 senior technical staff focusing on agrobiodiversity, issues and challenges and potential innovative solutions.

The foundation also supported capacity building of the Ministry of Fisheries Office in Aden in December 2018. The training targeted 34 senior technical staff focusing on marine biodiversity, sustainable fishing, issues and challenges and potential innovative solutions.



### 11.5 Information and Data Management

The foundation in collaboration with the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CPEF) and Environmentic Consultation Company (Jordan) to develop data base for the environmentally sensitive sites in southern and western mountainous areas in Yemen. A website was developed and accessible to various users such as experts, researchers, academic and students.

The role of the Sustainability Foundation was mainly related in leading and supporting the implementation of the Project (i.e. database) marketing and outreach activities in Yemen, under the supervision of Enviromatics. The foundation also played an important role in coordination and networking with biodiversity conservation authorities, universities, research centers, environmental NGOs and CSOs in Yemen. More information on the database is available on the following link: <https://naturemena.com/>



### List of training programs implemented by Estidama

| No | Course or training Name                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | number of participants | Period | Donor |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------|-------|
| 1  | Estidama implemented training course on the Environmental Awareness as capacity building for the heads of the divisions in the education offices in the directorates of Aden Governorate, to raise their skills in the environmental issues and establishing environmental clubs in Aden Schools. | 20 male and female     | 2days  | SFNC  |
| 2  | Estidama implemented a training course (Training of trainers) on climate change and natural disasters for emergencies response and recovery in the coastal areas.                                                                                                                                 | 42 male and female     | 6days  | UNDP  |
| 3  | Estidama has produced a practical guide on disasters response including climate change and hurricanes risks .                                                                                                                                                                                     | N/A                    | N/A    | UNDP  |
| 4  | The foundation implemented training course on coordination and exchange information related to the database of biodiversity and environmentally sensitive areas in Yemen, with collaboration with the Environmentic Company in Jordan.                                                            | 22 male and female     | 1 day  | UNDP  |
| 5  | Estidama implemented training on essential aid and rescue operations for people with COVID-19, targeting the poor, displaced and marginalized groups and provide some oxygen cylinders.                                                                                                           | 5 male and female      | 3days  | SFNC  |
| 6  | Estidama conducted a practical field training for a group of fishermen and the local community on environmental protection and hygiene in Aden .                                                                                                                                                  | 24 male and female     | 4days  | SFNC  |
| 7  | Estidama conducted training for the local community and fishermen on protecting marine and coastal resources, with a focus on rare turtles and coral reef protection in Al-AZIZI Island.                                                                                                          | 19 male and female     | 3days  | SFNC  |
| 8  | Estidama implemented a training course for the community motivation team on infectious diseases                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 27 male and female     | 2 days | SFNC  |

|    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                    |        |      |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------|------|
|    | such as cholera and fevers in the governorates of Lahj, Aden, Abyan and Taiz.                                                                                                                                         |                    |        |      |
| 9  | Estidama carried out field training on sustainable livelihoods for local communities and fishermen in Lahj and Aden governorates.                                                                                     | 31 male and female | 5 days | SFNC |
| 10 | Estidama carried out intensive training for environmental advocacy clubs and mass organizations on puppet theater, with the aim of addressing environmental community problems under the national conflict situation. | 14 male and female | 3days  | SFNC |
| 11 | Estidama implemented a Training workshop for NGOs on job creation and sustainable livelihood IN Aden                                                                                                                  | 22 male and female | 2days  | SFNC |