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Preface

SWALIM's primary objective is to contribute to better decisions on the use of water and land resources in Somalia by providing reliable and up-to-date information. Our main stakeholders are Somali administrations, UN organizations, development agencies and NGOs. The information collected and processed includes, but is not limited to:

- rainfall and other climatic parameters
- river levels and stream flow data
- geological, topographic and soil characteristics
- land cover, land use and land suitability features, and
- previous studies, maps and data series on water and land resources

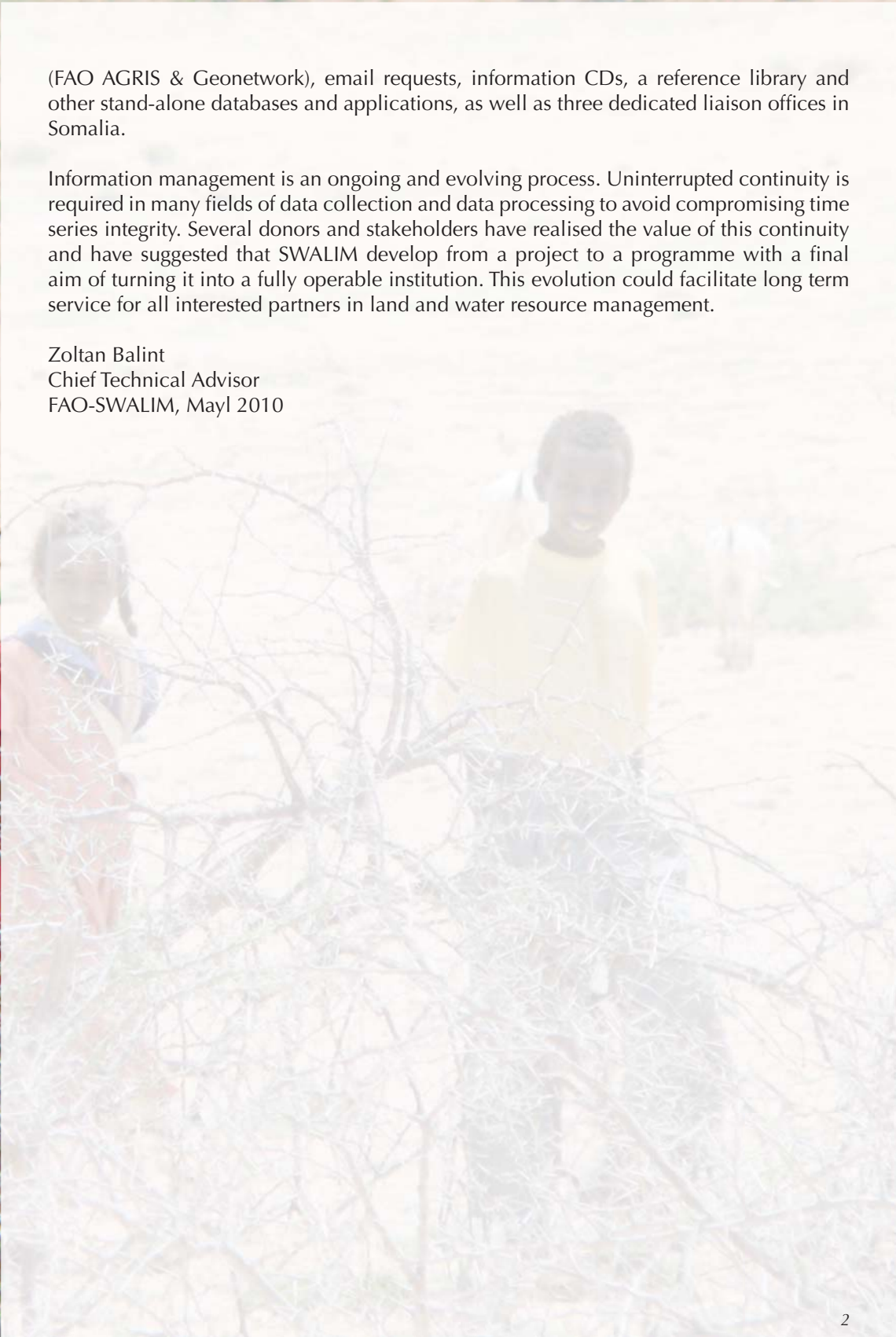
To support data collection and processing efforts, relevant observation networks have been and are being established.

Responsible decisions, however, require processed and properly analyzed information, not just raw data. All data are checked for quality, stored in structured data bases, technically analysed, and presented to our clients in the form of tables, maps, GIS databases and reports. So far SWALIM has prepared over 35 reports with corresponding maps and datasets.

The most important characteristics of the SWALIM information management philosophy are that 1) information systems should be question oriented, 2) they should respond to clients' needs at the appropriate scales and resolutions (national, regional and sub-regional level) and 3) users should be empowered with the knowledge, capacity and relevant tools required to fully utilize the information generated. The above principles imply that:

- a.) The SWALIM system is designed to feed into solutions for demand driven challenges and questions, related, among others, to climate, state of irrigation schemes; suitability of land for crop production or animal husbandry; the amount of water in the rivers that can be utilized for irrigation; flood forecasting and management; and domestic water supply. The system gives full support to recognized decision makers without encroaching upon their authority.
- b.) Small-scale decisions (e.g. what crops can be grown at a given farm) always need a site survey. While maps and databases created in SWALIM provide sound orientation at the district, regional or national levels, actual site specific decisions require customized studies.
- c.) Capacity building in SWALIM includes training, facilitating and working together. The information management system is based on the team work of many individuals, institutions, NGOs and other partner organisations.

The information management process covers data collection, processing and dissemination; there is not much use of databases and maps that are not accessible by potential users. Data and information are available to anyone working in related fields through different outlets, including the SWALIM website (www.faoswalim.org) with two online catalogues



(FAO AGRIS & Geonetwork), email requests, information CDs, a reference library and other stand-alone databases and applications, as well as three dedicated liaison offices in Somalia.

Information management is an ongoing and evolving process. Uninterrupted continuity is required in many fields of data collection and data processing to avoid compromising time series integrity. Several donors and stakeholders have realised the value of this continuity and have suggested that SWALIM develop from a project to a programme with a final aim of turning it into a fully operable institution. This evolution could facilitate long term service for all interested partners in land and water resource management.

Zoltan Balint
Chief Technical Advisor
FAO-SWALIM, May 2010

Introduction

The aim of this catalogue is to provide descriptions of SWALIM information products to enable you to identify the ones that are relevant for you. The catalogue is organized along the three SWALIM themes of Water Resources, Land Resources and Information Management. For water and land resource products, presentation reflects the three formats used by SWALIM to package information – reports, datasets and maps. The catalogue consists of 13 parts:

Part 1 - *Water resources products* include technical reports and databases on climate, irrigation, water sources, floods, potential for rainwater harvesting, flood forecasting and response and hydrometeorological data inventory.

Part 2 - *Land resources products* cover technical reports and databases on landforms, soil surveys, land cover, pastoral resource assessment, land degradation, land use and land suitability.

Parts 3 to 11 - *Information management products* cover online data catalogues, the Somalia Dynamic Atlas, SWALIM information resource centres, SWALIM website, Atlas of Somali Water and Land Resources, Atlas of the Juba and Shabelle Rivers, aerial photographic dataset of Juba and Shabelle Rivers and information systems on floods and irrigation.

Part 12 - *Other spatial datasets and maps* cover spatial datasets and maps not included in Parts 1 to 11 or those originating from other agencies collaborating with SWALIM.

Part 13 - *Annexes* contain additional supporting information.

To find information, you should first use this catalogue to identify relevant information resources and then use the online links (URL) provided for each product to access information from our website. You will also find it useful to search our online catalogues, using appropriate keywords. In most cases, information will be available for download from the website or via the online catalogues. Where downloading is not possible, for example because of bandwidth limitations, you can request information by sending an email to enquiries@faoswalim.org, following which SWALIM will prepare the requested information and inform you when it is ready for collection, or where possible, email it to you. Use this email address to also make enquiries, obtain clarification and request additional support, demonstration or training. Email enquiries sent to SWALIM are dealt with on a daily basis, and feedback is provided within the shortest time possible.

When using SWALIM products and associated data, please make sure you accurately cite them. Technical reports and publications should be cited as directed on the reports – see first page. Where citation information is not provided, products should be cited as follows:

Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM) project (Year), Title / Name of Product.

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