



**Somalia Camel Fete (SCF), 2024**  
International Year of Camelids (IYC) 2024  
Social Engagement event.

### Official Event Name

XUSKA GEELA SOOMALIDA  
**Somali Camel Fete 2024**  
مهرجان الابل الصومالي

### Organizer

**Biciid Center**  
*for Culture & Nature*



### Co-organizers



**Supported by** [Under IYC 2024]



## Event Summery

**Organized by:** *Biciid Center for Culture and Nature*

**Location:** *Garowe*

**Collaborators:** *List potential collaborators, e.g. (local herder associations, cultural organizations, Researchers, International Organizations, Somali National Moseium, Government, Media Associations).*

**Date:** June 22nd, 2024

**Sections:**

- Educational Forum [Livelihoods, Health, economy]
- Exhibition Forum
- Cultural Forum
- Peace-building & Stablility.

**Initiatives:**

- Somali Darvish Camel Corps [Daraawiishtii & Adeegsigoodii]
- Camel Library [Save the Children Showcase]
- Camel Tracking System [Using GPS to find lost camels]
- Xero System [Modern Somali Camel Enclosure]

**Budget:** N/A

**Sponsors:** Local business companies, hotels, FOA Somalia (if), Unesco (if), Somalia Government, Puntland Government, and partners.

**Sponsor Grades:** Starter, Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum, Diamond (D2, D3, D4)

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## Introduction

The Biciid Center for Culture and Nature, the only cultural center for researching, preserving and dissemination of Somali indigenous knowledge along with the ministry of Livestock and Husbandry of Puntland and Puntland State University is proposing the **Somali Camel Fete**, a vibrant festival celebrating the cultural and ecological significance of camels in Somalia during the International Year of Camelids (IYC) 2024 and beyond. Somalia boasts the world's largest Dromedary camel population in the world, making it a fitting location to host a major IYC 2024 series event.

The UN has designated 2024 as a special year to celebrate camels (IYC 2024). This year shines a light on the critical role these camalids play in the lives of millions of people in over 90 countries. All six species of camelids – alpacas, Bactrian camels, dromedaries, guanacos, llamas, and vicuñas – are valuable contributors to food security, healthy diets, and economic development. They also hold deep cultural significance for communities around the world.

Somalia occupies a central position in the global camelid landscape, boasting over 51% of the world's Dromedary camel population. These camels play a vital role in Somali life, with over 90% of the population relying on them for essential dietary needs and economic sustenance. This dependence underscores the international significance of safeguarding Somali camel populations, ensuring the continued well-being of both the animals and the communities they support.

## Vision

The Somali Camel Fete envisions a world where the cultural and ecological significance of camels in Somalia is widely recognized and celebrated. We aim to foster a deep respect for these resilient animals and their role in sustaining Somali communities and ecosystems.

## Mission

The Somali Camel Fete is on a mission to:

- **Celebrate:** Honor the enduring bond between Somali people and camels, highlighting their historical and contemporary importance.
- **Educate:** Raise awareness about camel conservation, traditional herding practices, and their contribution to Somali food security.
- **Empower:** Provide a platform for Somali camel herders to share their knowledge and experiences, fostering community engagement and cultural pride.
- **Advocate:** Promote sustainable camel management practices and advocate for policies that support the well-being of both camels and the Somali people.

## Objectives

- Celebrate the vital role of camels in Somali culture, past and present.

- Raise awareness about camel conservation and sustainable herding practices.
- Promote Somalia's rich cultural heritage through traditional performances and photo exhibitions.
- Exchange knowledge about the Somali Camel and how they can contribute to the rest of the world.

## Target Audience

- Somali communities (herders, local residents, diaspora)
- International audience interested in camel culture and conservation
- Policymakers, researchers, and NGOs working on camel-related issues

## Event Activities

The activities of the event will cover four different sectors, including Educational Forum [Camel Milk cooperation, Presenting Camel Research, Camel Talks, Panel discussions, Life Experience Talks and Pastoralist Education], Cultural Forum [Poetry and Storytelling for Camel Culture, Awarding Camel Owners], Camel Exhibition [Camel Products, Photo Exhibition], Peace & Stability [Camel Herding Resource Management, Historical role of camel in Somali conflict, Building Peace through the dialogue, Peace Building through Pastoralism, Peace Tent].

### 01. Educational Forum

Camels, the majestic ships of the desert, have traversed the Somali landscape for millennia, shaping not just the environment but also the very essence of Somali culture. The Somali Camel Fete is a vibrant celebration of this enduring bond, a platform to delve into the fascinating world of these remarkable animals.

- **Camel Milk Cooperatives:** Exploring how camel milk cooperatives can create economic opportunities and promote cooperation between camel milk producers. This could involve discussions on:
  - Establishing fair market access for camel milk producers.
  - Building collective bargaining power for herders in the market.
  - Promoting collaboration in camel veterinary care.
  - Establishing Somali Camel herder's Higher commission.
  - Establishing
  - Advocate Participating Policy-making level.
- **Camel Research:** Presentations by leading camel researchers on topics like camel health, breeding, economics, and adaptation to climate change.
- **Camel Talks:** Interactive sessions with experienced Somali camel herders sharing their insights and traditional knowledge.
- **Panel Discussions:** Discussions featuring experts, policymakers, and community representatives on critical issues like sustainable camel management, camel conservation efforts, and the role of camels in pastoralist livelihoods.

- **Life Experience Talks:** Inspiring stories from Somali camel herders, camel experts, camel business owners towards their lives, challenges, and enduring connection with these animals.
- **Pastoralist Education:** literacy among herders. Partnering with the Puntland Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the Fete offers engaging literacy campaigns to camel herders and their pastoral families. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Livestock and Husbandry steps in with hands-on workshops on camel care and best practices. It's a meeting of tradition and progress, empowering herders with knowledge for a brighter future.

## 02. Cultural Forum

This vibrant festival promises to be a multi-sensory experience, offering a platform for education, entertainment, and dialogue. Step into the heart of Somali culture through:

- **Poetry and Storytelling for Camel Culture:** Traditional Somali poetry and storytelling sessions that celebrate themes of unity, development, culture, livelihoods, language, conflicts, cooperation, and peaceful coexistence. This could involve:
  - Inviting renowned Somali poets and storytellers to share their work.
  - Highlighting stories that illustrate the value of collaboration and resource sharing.
  - Encouraging audience participation through poetry readings or storytelling competitions.
- **Awarding Camel Owners:** Calling the person who owns the plentiest camels around Somali communities to give “Camel Owner Award”. The Award will charestrize;
  - Calling who possesses the biggest camel population in Somalia.
  - Giving award — “Somali Camel Award”.
  - Making him a symbolic to Somali community.

## 03. Peace and Stability to Camel’s Herdsman

To further enrich the Herders' Gathering experience, the Somali Camel Fete will offer dedicated educational forums that delve deeper into the themes of peacebuilding and camel herding:

- **Photo Exhibition: "Camels for Peace":** A curated photo exhibition showcasing camels as a symbol of unity and collaboration in Somalia. Somali’s historically say “Camels born in the month called — “With me”, “Milk with me”, “Herd with me”, “Catch with me”, “Water with me”. This could feature:
  - Images of herders from different communities working together.
  - Photos depicting camels used for peaceful purposes like trade or transportation.
  - Stories highlighting the positive role camels play in Somali society.
- **Camel Herding and Resource Management:** This forum will explore traditional and modern techniques for sustainable camel herding practices that minimize environmental impact and reduce competition for resources like water and grazing land. Experts will discuss strategies for drought preparedness and conflict prevention through collaborative resource management.

- **The Historical Role of Camels in Somali Conflict:** A panel discussion, special presentations, life experience talks, featuring Somali historians and anthropologists will shed light on the complex relationship between camels and conflict in Somalia. The forum will explore historical incidents of camel-related disputes and analyze the root causes of these conflicts. Additionally, the discussion will highlight traditional conflict resolution mechanisms employed by Somali communities in the past.
- **Building Peace through Dialogue:** This session will bring together herders, peacebuilding experts, and community leaders to discuss contemporary approaches to fostering peace and collaboration between communities reliant on camels. The forum will explore successful peacebuilding initiatives and encourage dialogue on strategies for promoting peaceful coexistence and resource sharing. The conference will establish **Peace Committees** among the Barqamaal communities and other pastoral camel herders.
- **Peacebuilding through Pastoralism:** A panel discussion exploring how traditional pastoralist knowledge and practices can be leveraged to foster collaboration and conflict resolution between communities. This could involve discussions on:
  - Sharing water resources and grazing land equitably.
  - Establishing early warning systems for drought and resource scarcity to avoid upcoming clashes and conflicts.
  - Establishing Peace and Stability camel herders commission.
  - Reviving traditional conflict resolution mechanisms.
- **Peace Tent:** A dedicated space for open dialogue and facilitated discussions on conflict resolution strategies. This could include:
  - Inviting community leaders, peacebuilding experts, and herders for informal discussions.
  - Providing resources and information on conflict resolution techniques.
  - Encouraging attendees to share their own experiences and perspectives.

#### 04. Camel Exhibition

The Somali Camel Fete unveils the world of camels not just through captivating stories and educational forums, but also through a multi-sensory experience: captivating exhibitions. Prepare to immerse yourself in the richness of Somali camel culture through two distinct showcases:

- **Camel Products Exhibition:** A showcase of various camel-derived products, including milk, meat, hides, and industrialized byproducts. More than 60 Barqamaal & Hotels business owners will participate in this exhibition. The milk will be discounted more than 50% off, and meat also. Other byproducts like camel milk powders, camel creams, camel oils, and the camel soaps will be presented inside the booths. Each company will have its own separate booths.
- **Photo Exhibition:** A visual journey into the world of Somali camel herders, capturing their daily lives, challenges, and the unique bond they share with camels. Somali photographers and film makers will present a documentary films, photos and hand-drawing paintings. Bringing life camels in the venue will fuel the interests of the event, by taking fun with camels, having pictures milking camels and other camel stories.

By incorporating these event activities, the Somali Camel Fete can go beyond celebrating camels and actively promote peacebuilding efforts in Somalia. It can create a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and the creation of sustainable solutions that benefit both camels and Somali communities.

## Expected Outcomes

- Increased public awareness about the importance of camels in Somalia's cultural heritage and food security.
- A platform for knowledge exchange between camel herders, researchers, and policymakers on sustainable camel management practices.
- Fostered appreciation for the unique bond between Somali people and camels.
- Enhanced international recognition of Somalia's role in camel conservation.

## Sustainability

The Somali Camel Fete will prioritize eco-friendly practices, such as using local materials for festival structures, promoting responsible waste management, and raising awareness about sustainable camel herding techniques.

## The SCF contributes the United Nations SDG Goals, 2030 Vision

The Somali Camel Fete can contribute to several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations in the following ways:

**Goal 2: Zero Hunger:** The festival will highlight the importance of camels as a source of food security in Somalia. Educational forums can discuss the nutritional value of camel milk and meat, and the festival's "Culinary Delights" can showcase traditional dishes featuring these ingredients. This raises awareness about the vital role camels play in nourishing Somali communities.

**Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production:** The festival can promote sustainable camel herding practices through educational forums and exhibitions. Discussions can focus on techniques that minimize environmental impact, such as proper grazing management and responsible water usage. The Craft Market can feature products made from recycled or sustainably sourced materials related to camels.

**Goal 13: Climate Action:** Camels are remarkably well-adapted to arid environments. Educational forums can discuss the role camels play in maintaining rangeland ecosystems. The festival can promote traditional herding practices that contribute to climate resilience.

**Goal 15: Life on Land:** The festival can raise awareness about the importance of camel conservation efforts. Educational forums and exhibitions can address threats to camel populations, such as habitat degradation and disease. This fosters a sense of responsibility for preserving these animals and their role in the Somali ecosystem.

**Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals:** The Somali Camel Fete can bring together various stakeholders. This includes Somali camel herder associations, cultural organizations,

policymakers, researchers, and NGOs. The festival fosters collaboration and knowledge exchange, which is crucial for achieving the SDGs related to camels and Somali development.

By incorporating these elements, the Somali Camel Fete can not only celebrate camels but also contribute to a more sustainable future for Somalia, aligning with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

## **Sponsorship Level**

We are seeking sponsorships to help us achieve our goals. We offer several sponsorship levels to fit your budget and interests:

### **Starter (\$500):**

- Recognition of your sponsorship on festival signage, social media and website.
- Inclusion in all press releases and media announcements mentioning sponsors.
- Inclusion in all photo banner.

### **Silver (\$1,500):**

- All benefits of Starter level, plus:
- Prominent logo placement on all event materials and social media promotion, increasing brand awareness.
- Distribution of promotional materials at the festival booth of a partnering organization (if applicable).

### **Bronze (\$2,500):**

- All benefits of Silver level, plus:
- A dedicated booth at the festival to showcase services and connect with attendees. This provides a valuable platform for customer engagement and brand promotion.
- Opportunity to distribute informational brochures and promotional materials at your booth.

### **Gold (\$3,500):**

- All benefits of Bronze level, plus:
- Speaking opportunity at the opening ceremony to highlight commitment to the community and chosen area of focus (e.g., supporting camel herders, sustainable agriculture).
- Logo displayed prominently on stage backdrop during your speech.
- Feature interview with your representative in the official festival program booklet.
- 90 seconds advert video in the festival by showcasing your event role.

### **Diamond (\$5,000+):**

- All benefits of Gold level, plus:
- Naming rights for a specific festival activity or area (e.g., "The XYZ Race" or "The XYZ Children's Tent"). This offers significant brand recognition and association with a popular festival segment.



- Placement of your services, logo in media outlets like; documentaries, videos, clips, and displays separately by marking diamond.
- Wear promotional t-shirt, to sport wrestling teams.

## Conclusion:

The Somali Camel Fete promises to be a vibrant and educational celebration, fostering a deeper understanding of the irreplaceable role camels play in Somali life. Biciid Center for Culture and Nature is committed to making this event a success, contributing significantly to the International Year of Camelids 2024. Detailed program will be generated during the implementing days of the event.

## Proposed Draft Agenda

Time	Activity	Description
09:00 – 09:40	Registration of guests and welcoming	Welcoming guests, registering, guiding to celebrations points, and seats.
10:00 - 10:10	Introduction	Welcome remarks by Biciid Center for Culture and Nature representative — Somali Camel Fete 2024. Introduction of the International Year of Camelids (IYC) 2024 and its significance for Somalia and Somali people.
10:10 - 11:30	Celebrating Camels in Somali Culture	<p><b>* Traditional Dance Performances:</b> Witness the vibrant dances that depict the historical and contemporary importance of camels in Somali life, Showcasing watering songs, other work songs for the camel. (45 minutes)</p> <p><b>* Poetry Reading:</b> Renowned Somali poets will share their works that praise the resilience and importance of camels. (15 minutes)</p> <p><b>*Panel Discussion:</b> The Enduring Bond Between Somalis and Camels: Esteemed camel herders and cultural experts discuss the deep connection between camels and Somali communities and how camels can contribute livelihoods and cultural enrichment of the Somali community. (30 minutes)</p>
11:30 - 13:00	Somali Culinary Delights	<p><b>Lunch Break:</b> Enjoy a delicious sampling of traditional Somali cuisine featuring camel milk and meat delicacies. (30 minutes)</p> <p><b>* Cooking Demonstration:</b> Learn how to prepare a traditional Somali camel dish from a local chef. (30 minutes)</p>
14:00 - 15:00	Camel Races (Heats)	Witness the excitement and skill of the opening heats of the traditional camel races. (60 minutes) — Proposed.
15:00 - 16:30	Photo Exhibition & Craft Market	<p>Explore a captivating visual journey into the world of Somali camel herders, capturing their daily lives and enduring connection with these animals. (Photo Exhibition - Ongoing)</p> <p><b>* Discover a vibrant marketplace featuring camel-related crafts and products from local artisans. (Craft Market - Ongoing)</b></p>
16:30 - 18:00	Children's Activities	Engage young minds with fun and interactive activities designed to teach them about camels and their significance in Somali culture. Showcasing Came Carrying, Somali traditional house, and its equipment from the products of camel (Ongoing).