

Why Investing in Puntland Matters



A visitor-economy and investment brief

Bosaso and Garacad ports - 1,300 km of coast - Investment Law 2019

Garowe - 2026

Why it matters

Puntland was formed in 1998 as a federal member state of Somalia. Relative stability, a working administration in Garowe, and a private sector that kept trade moving through the civil war years make it one of the most practical places in the Horn of Africa to put capital to work -- including in tourism, logistics, and the visitor economy.

A case for patient capital

- ? Gateway location on the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean, on shipping routes toward Bab el-Mandeb, the Red Sea, and the Suez Canal.
- ? Two international seaports -- Bosaso and Garacad -- plus international airports in Bosaso and Garowe.
- ? 1,300 km of largely undeveloped coast: fisheries, salt at Hafun, and coastal tourism at Mareero, Eyl, Murcanyo, and Qandala.
- ? Livestock still accounts for most export earnings; frankincense (maydi and beeyo) and fish add high-value trades.
- ? A young workforce (about 70% under 30), fibre-optic connectivity, and a Chamber of Commerce already in place.
- ? The Puntland Investment Law 2019 opens all business sectors to private capital and names agriculture, livestock, fishing, natural resources, and tourism as priorities.

Location, trade, and cities



Bosaso is among the fastest-growing cities on the Somali coast. Garowe is the political capital, with banks, universities, and hotels that already host forums, book fairs, and official travel. Together they give investors a port city and an administrative city within a day's drive.

- ? Road links into the rest of Somalia and toward the Somali Region of Ethiopia, with air cargo capacity at Bosaso and Garowe.
- ? Historic trade with Yemen, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and the wider Gulf -- livestock, frankincense, and fish still move on these routes.
- ? Diaspora return and a housing boom (Green City in Bosaso; Amal and Emad in Garowe) are pulling demand for hotels, construction, and services.
- ? Tourism needs the same backbone as trade: reliable cars, coastal lodges, and conference space. Visitor spending multiplies local jobs.

Priority sectors

Livestock & agribusiness

About 60% of employment and 80% of export earnings. Gaps: fodder, feedlots, tanneries, export-standard slaughter, dairy, and dates. Puntland is Somalia's leading producer of frankincense and date palm.

Fisheries

Tuna, lobster, and demersal fish along 1,300 km of coast. Needed: processing and canning, cold storage, gear, and quality control. Some 200-300 tons of lobster tails are already exported each year.

Energy & minerals

High onshore wind and solar potential; diesel still dominates. Gemstones and gold are worked by hand in the mountains. Salt works at Hafun and Hurdiyo once shipped ~200,000 MT and can be revived for regional demand.

Tourism & hospitality

Cal Madow highlands, Eyl lagoon, Mareero Beach, and the Qandala-Murcanyo coast are still lightly built. Hotels, eco-lodges, car hire, and guided circuits are the practical first investments -- and they make every other sector easier to visit and staff.

ICT, finance, health, education

Golis and other operators already provide mobile money and fibre. Banks in Garowe offer cards and remittances. Hospitals, diagnostics, TVET, and private colleges remain undersupplied.

Climate, law, and next steps

The Investment Law 2019 commits Puntland to an open, predictable market and encourages foreign capital that uses local resources, brings suitable technology, earns or saves foreign exchange, and supports balanced development. Tourism is named explicitly, provided it fits local social and infrastructure conditions.

What visitors and investors should do first

- ? Start with a scouting trip: Garowe for government and banks, Bosaso for the port and coast, Eyl or Mareero for the visitor product.
- ? Speak to the Ministry of Commerce, Industries & Investments (MOCII) and the Chamber of Commerce on licensing and land.
- ? Pair a productive investment (cold storage, fodder, energy) with a hospitality asset (hotel, lodge, car hire) so staff and clients can stay.
- ? Budget for local partners, professional drivers, and modest, lawful operations. Puntland rewards presence more than remote speculation.

Contact

Visit Puntland - info@moifad.pl.so - Garowe, Nugaal. For investment policy and licences: Ministry of Commerce, Industries & Investments -- mocii.pl.so. This brief summarises publicly stated Puntland government investment priorities for travellers and counterparties; it is not a prospectus.