

**The Republic of Yemen**

# **Socotra Archipelago World Heritage Property**

## **The State of Conservation Report**

Prepared by: the Ministry of Water and Environment in Yemen

Prepared for: the World Heritage Committee

**February 2016**

## **1. Executive Summary**

The Government of Yemen represented by the Ministry of Water and Environment expresses its sincere apology for the delay in responding to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee decisions and recommendations. This was caused by the exceptional political and institutional circumstances through which Yemen has gone during the last few years. The response was also affected by the emergency created by the cyclone incidents in Socotra in November 2015. The Yemeni Government in its legitimacy assures the World Heritage Committee that the long term conservation and maintenance of the Socotra Archipelago as a World Heritage Property remains a top national priority and thus all Convention related requirements and obligations including timely reporting will be ensured.

Despite the extreme hardships caused by political instability and the cyclone incidents, the Yemeni government was able to achieve some major progress on addressing the factors influencing the OUV of the property as elaborated in the World Heritage Committee recommendations, including a detailed set of recommendations presented in the IUCN reactive monitoring mission in 2012.

Firstly, the government of Yemen succeeded in mobilizing several key international projects targeting integrated planning and management of natural and cultural values of the archipelago in cooperation with several renowned organizations, such as: GIZ, UNEP, UNDP, and IUCN. These interventions include strong emphasis on strengthening the governance system of the archipelago through the establishment of an independent governorate in 2014, and the allocation of separate fiscal budgets managed at the local level through the decentralized authority deployed in the field. The programs further address the revision and update of the legislative and management frameworks for the archipelago, including the conservation and development zoning and master plans. Further, a long-term comprehensive capacity building program has been initiated targeting all local constituencies including local government, technical authorities, civil society organizations and local community leaders with the aim to enhance their capabilities to better manage their natural resources in line with the requirements and safeguards needed for the OUV. The program is anticipated to achieve important results related to improved planning and management of infrastructure, sustainable land management, effective monitoring of invasive species, and adequate management of protected areas and other biodiversity priority areas. Other elements of the program include the promotion of alternative and more sustainable livelihoods, such as ecotourism, honey production, handicrafts, and sustainable fisheries.

Secondly, the unfortunate incident of the cyclones hitting Socotra twice in one week in November 2015 has regrettably increased the severity of the impacts of the factors influencing the property, while adding several new challenges and constraints. Especially in regard to limiting access to the archipelago, habitat destruction, and possibly fish wealth deterioration. In response, the government of Yemen, in cooperation with its regional partners from the Gulf States and international partners from donor and technical cooperation agencies have adopted an emergency response plan with the aim to mitigate the impacts caused by the cyclones and restore the lost biodiversity and natural resources. The ambitious and well-resourced plan has already commenced and will continue for several years, including the development of a risk assessment plan which will lead to an early warning system, thus enhancing the resilience of the archipelago against future natural disasters.

Along with confirming its commitment to the protection of the Socotra archipelago, with all possible resources and efforts, the Yemeni government calls upon UNESCO and all its associated partners to stand by Socotra and provide all possible support and cooperation to ensure the maintenance of the OUV of the property for the enjoyment of the world today and future generations.

## 2. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

World Heritage Committee Reference:

WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add

Paris, 29 May 2015

This section includes a paragraph by paragraph response to the World Heritage Committee Decision and Recommendations. The response is formatted in accordance with the IUCN 2012 reactive mission recommendations as it represents the most comprehensive list of recommendations inclusive of all decisions articles and provisions.

### Planning and Management

**2.1- Develop an agreed action plan, which should be time bound and well-resourced to immediately implement all decisions taken in the 2008 Decrees. It is strongly advised that IUCN and the World Heritage Centre are involved in the process of the development and implementation of the action plan.**

The political regime and the governance structure in Yemen have dramatically changed as a result of the current revolution. These have exerted major implications on the governance and management of the Socotra Archipelago. Although negatively affected at the short-term, the Socotra Islands are foreseen to benefit dramatically from the national transformations on the long-term.

Despite the ongoing conflict and its political, security, and development implications, Socotra remained distant from the core conflict areas and successfully maintained its civic peace and coherence.

- The new legitimate government of the Yemen immediately after its establishment has given Socotra a special attention.
- The government recognition of the special status of the Islands including their position on the world heritage list.
- Socotra remaining one of the few safe and peaceful regions of Yemen despite the conflict turmoil overtaking most the country.
- The open approach to the World is strongly adopted by the new emerging government which includes a number of highly qualified decision makers fully

aware of the importance of adhering to international treaties and obligations including the World Heritage Convention.

Socotra has been the first article of the declaration of the Yemeni Vice President and Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Khaled Mahfouz Bahhah in the climate change summit in Paris. H.E. stated that the government of Yemen fully recognizes the global importance of Socotra and called upon all parties concerned to contribute to its long-term protection and sustainability especially after constraints caused by the Civil War and Cyclones.

**2.2- Accelerate the processes leading to the establishment of an Archipelago wide management authority legally mandated and well-resourced to oversee the conservation of the property and its sustainable development. The mission notes that the current political reforms taking place in Yemen represent a rare opportunity to strengthen the legal and institutional status of Socotra in accordance with its World Heritage status.**

A major step was taken to establish Socotra as an autonomous administrative unit was taken in October 2013 by declaring the Archipelago an independent Governorate under the name: the Governorate of the Archipelago of Socotra. This took place after Socotra was one of the small administrative directorates under the mainland based Governorate of Hadramout. This declaration gives the Socotra administration represented by the Governor and his executive and advisory councils' full authority over the decision making processes and budget management without having to suffer from the complexity of the centralized system of bureaucracy and distant decision making centers.

To demonstrate such a massive positive, the now Governorate Council has made changes to the standard structure of the Deputy position for environment and development to be combined in one position rather than split into two separate functions as normally structured for other Governorates. This represents a key assurance measure that all development initiatives will be regulated by their environmental safeguards and precautions especially in regard to the investment in infrastructure related to the various service and development sectors.

**2.3- Secure fiscal allocation for Socotra Archipelago as part of the annual national budget. The allocation needs to be sufficient to implement core conservation programs of the property;**

Being an independent Governorate entails the allocation of a specific budget for the Archipelago managed in a decentralized manner at the local level.

Since the Governorate establishment, the fiscal allocation for the Archipelago in the national budget has at least tripled comparing. This entails that the resources allocated to the environmental management and protection had increased substantially.

Since 2012, several key environmental conservation projects and initiatives were signed by the Yemeni Government with international donors and partners. This includes the cooperation agreements GIZ, UNDP, IFAD, UNEP, and FRC with a total budget of around twenty million US Dollars. Further, the Government of Yemen is currently negotiating access to significant funds from the green climate fund through UNEP.

#### **2.4- Adopt an emergency action plan to reactivate the management program for the Archipelago with a focus on empowering EPA and local councils as well as the local associations managing all pilot Protected Areas;**

The Government of Yemen fully recognizes the importance of the activation of the EPA in terms of its institutional, technical and logistical capacities. Three of the above mentioned projects directly address the restructuring and empowerment of the EPA role on the Archipelago through reinstalling institutional and technical capacities into its central and sit based teams.

Interim measures taken on the above by the local council include:

- The adoption of the Zoning Plan of 2000 as the guiding document for the Archipelago planning and management until the process its revision and update is concluded.
- The establishment of a specialized planning unit at the Governorate level with the mandate to oversee the interim and long-term implementation of the Archipelago wide Zoning and Master Plans. This includes a special GIS program as the nucleus for an information management system for the islands.
- The establishment of a Governorate level committee for integrating planning for development and conservation across the Archipelago. The committee is chaired by H.E. the Governor of Socotra which confirms the highest level of importance and attention given by the local government.

**2.5- Devise a clear strategy on including the outer islands in all management programs of the Archipelago including solutions to year round access, communication and reporting.**

All of the above measures included under the points 1 to 4 will include a specific component for the outer islands, in particular Abdul Kuri and Samha. This includes the establishment of local development and conservation focal points representing the local population in the outer islands.

### **Road construction**

**2.6- Take a clear decision on the cancellation of the remaining components of the Qarya-Hegher road and the Hai Al Salam-Nojed road and the rehabilitation of the areas already impacted by the constructed parts.**

The above mentioned road was not completed until present time. It has been almost completely eroded by the recent cyclones. The local government has already suspended all appeals of some local inhabitants to re-open the road as a dirt path, with the aim to ensure that whatever action adopted will not conflict with the recommendation of the World Heritage Committee. Alternative access options outside the World Heritage Property are being explored provided that adequate involvement of the World Heritage Committee will be assured and proper impacts assessment are undertaken.

The government of Yemen represented by the local government is in the process of adopting a policy on the cancellation or all previous decision to expand main access roads within the World Heritage Property. The decision is foreseen to be in-force by mid-2016. Despite the above, the situation

**2.7- Revise the MOPWH road master plan to be fully in line with the World Heritage zoning plan. The new master plan should not include any proposals for new highways within the property, and should adopt a new set of guidelines and criteria for the construction of new roads which are vitally needed for the development of the Archipelago and respond to local priorities. These roads should comply with the proposed rural access roads category with minimal ecological footprints and a clear set of criteria for selection.**

The new Government of Yemen intends to revise all previous master plans for the Archipelago. This will include the conservation master plan and its associated

presidential decree of 2000 as the basis before the revision of all other development masterplans including the road network.

The local government – in partnership with UNEP is currently preparing for a major revision of the conservation master plan. The initiative will commence in late-2016 and is foreseen to be completed by the end of 2017.

**2.8- Adopt a comprehensive rehabilitation program to remedy the impacts of previous roads. The rehabilitation program should be based on sound environmental and engineering guidelines. Priority should be given to the main roads connecting the northern and southern parts of the Island.**

Currently the local government is preparing to implement an emergency rehabilitation plan for key access roads outside the World Heritage Property. The plan would include existing stretches entering the World Heritage Property, however, under the following conditions:

- No changes will be done to the road in terms of size or materials used.
- No excavation or quarrying sites will be allowed inside the property.
- No waste disposal will be allowed inside the property.

The net positive impact on the environment will be the objective of such repair actions by preventing further road-side erosion, waste accumulation or disposal, as well as rehabilitation of tree cover and soil.

**2.9- Develop and adopt an effective EIA process for all new infrastructure development in the Archipelago including roads, ports, large scale tourism development, fisheries facilities and so forth. The EIA systems should follow internationally accepted standards and guidelines and should represent an independent process involving the World Heritage Committee.**

The current EIA legislation in Yemen is now suspended and not enforced in the country at large due to the current political situation of the country.

The local government is planning – in cooperation with its international partners – to adopt an interim mechanism for the EIA process for the Archipelago in the form of a multi-disciplinary committee form the various line ministries to oversee the process

within the few coming years until the full reactivation of the legislative framework is achieved.

To initiate the above process, the governorate of Socotra has recruited an experienced legal advisor (through the ongoing UNDP project) with aim to advice on the process of revision of the Archipelago wide zoning plan and other legislative priorities including the EIA.

**2.10- Undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the road network on Socotra to inform it of the least environmentally damaging options for transportation on the island. The State Party is strongly advised not to approve any new major development project without prior consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN.**

The responses under point 9 include addressing the SEA options for the various development programs on the Archipelago including the road network which could one of the pilot initiatives under such a framework.

The longer-term development of the SEA process and framework is a key component of the ongoing cooperation agreement between the Ministry of Water and Environment in Yemen and the UNEP on the support for the integrated program for the conservation and sustainable development of the Socotra Archipelago Project (2015-2018).

## **Stakeholders Involvement**

**2.11- Devise and launch a World Heritage introduction program in Socotra and Yemen with the aim to raise national awareness of the property;**

Several previous initiatives and event were implemented, however, unsystematically.

The local governorate will launch a special outreach campaign in 2016 on the celebration on the anniversary of Socotra as a World Heritage Property. It will include the production of a set of publications, a public festival, and a series of field based visits and events across the islands.

**2.12- Adopt a capacity building program strongly attached to sustainable financing mechanisms for civil society organizations on the Archipelago to become active partners in the conservation and sustainable development of the property;**

A joint project is currently implemented in cooperation with UNDP to build the institutional and technical capacities – including fund raising and sustainable financing mechanisms – for around 35 local CBOs. The program several themes related to strategic planning, fundraising, conservation and management and monitoring, income generation activities, and advocacy.

The local government is currently adopting an enabling policy to include representatives from the local CBOs in the Governorate wide decision making frameworks and platforms. This includes ensuring representations from the CBOs in the various advisory committees associated with the governorate structure.

**2.13- Implement a comprehensive training program for key personnel from all key institutions involved in the management of the Archipelago to raise awareness towards the property's importance and exchange knowledge and experience from other similar regions of the world;**

The above mentioned program under point 12 targets the wider stakeholders' landscape from local government, local communities and youth groups.

Another zoning plan oriented training and sensitization program is being implemented by the Environment Protection Authority in cooperation with local government and UNDP. The program started in 2013 and will continue until mid-2016.

A third training initiative was concluded in January 2016 which targeted gender inclusion in conservation and development planning across the main island of Socotra.

**2.14- Further invest and capitalize on best practices empowering local communities to acquire a leading role in managing their natural heritage within an effective collaborative management approach to biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of natural resources. This includes the community based sea turtles conservation, honey production initiative, ecotourism and protected areas management programs.**

Please see the responses under point 13.

Another program to enhance local communities' engagement in integrated conservation and development planning is currently implemented by EPA in cooperation with GIZ with the main goal to enhance local community based governance of natural resources and sustainable development programs. A first pilot region in the east of the Island of Socotra was chosen for the implementation of the initiative with the intention to expand the intervention to all other regions of the main island of Socotra. Another similar program is being explored targeting the outer islands under the same scope.

A special capacity building program is being also implemented for at least 10 local community based organizations involved in the management of the key established protected areas in the main island of Socotra. The program includes the update of the sites' management plans and the reactivation of biodiversity monitoring systems. The program commenced in late 2016 and will continue to mid-2016.

## **Tourism Development and Management**

### **2.15- Develop and implement a clear ecotourism development and marketing strategy for the Archipelago in collaboration with local and international private sectors;**

The ecotourism development strategy for Socotra was developed and put in place since 1999. Three revisions and updates were undertaken in 2004, 2008, and 2013, all focusing on the adopting the globally accepted principles and applications of sustainable tourism which is community based, ecologically sensitive, and economically viable for the good of the people of Socotra.

It is important to note here that due to the political instability of the country, tourism numbers dropped from 4,000 visitors in 2010 to less than 200 in 2015. The numbers are foreseen to pick up again, however, not in the near future. Sustainable tourism represents a strategic choice adopted by the Yemeni Government and the people of Socotra for their island, and once starts reviving as conditions improve, ecotourism and its associated activities such as handcrafts making and bee keeping could be an important ecologically sensitive more sustainable alternative to some of the current land use practices such as excessive grazing and over-fishing.

The Government of Yemen represented by the Governorate of Socotra gives top priority to reactivate and develop sustainable tourism as an importance conservation tool as well as an economic driver and sustainable source of income for local communities.

Currently, tourism does not represent a threat to the OUV of the Archipelago, it will however be developed in a way which ensures its positive impact on the protection and sustainability of the natural and cultural values of the Islands. This will be done through improving the governance arrangements for tourism development and management, adequate capacity building programs for local service providers, proper interpretation and orientation and awareness raising systems for the visitors, and improved monitoring of benefits and impacts.

**2.16- Implement a comprehensive interpretation plan for the property at all key access points and social and commercial centers with the aim to re-brand the Archipelago in accordance with its World Heritage Status;**

See above notes under point 15.

A special interpretation system for visitors, traders, and guests of Socotra is currently planned at the airport. The system will include large world heritage panels, a set of posters, leaflets and information sheets, informing all comers to the islands about its world heritage status and guiding them on what can and cannot be done during their visits/stay. This includes a set of tourism maps and local contacts to organize their excursions and uses. The installation of the system is foreseen to be completed by the end of 2016.

**2.17- Undertake a comprehensive tourism carrying capacity assessment and establish a monitoring system to ensure tourism sustainability and its minimal impact on the natural heritage and associated cultural values of the Archipelago.**

See above notes under point 15.

### **Biodiversity Monitoring and Other Resources Conservation**

**2.18- Put in place an effective biodiversity monitoring system with the objective to assess the current impacts of other threats, such as cattle grazing and invasive species, and devise threat specific strategies to ensure their minimal long term impacts.**

Despite the hardships constraining access and mobility to and within the Islands, the Government of Yemen is undertaking several important steps to re-develop the Islands' biodiversity monitoring program with focus on key threats such as overgrazing, invasive

species, marine resource exploitation, wood cutting and infrastructure development. These include the following initiative:

- A comprehensive assessment of the impacts of recent cyclones which hit Socotra in November 2015. This will include socio economic impacts as well as impacts biodiversity and its associated livelihoods.
- A large medium term program in cooperation with UNEP (2016-2020) focusing on the integrated management of the Archipelago with particular focus on protected areas, sustainable land management, invasive species and improvement of governance. This project will lead the process of the review of the islands' side zoning and conservation master plan.

Further, the joint EPA/UNDP program is currently implementing a series of training programs on biodiversity assessments, protected areas management and natural heritage monitoring.

A two weeks program was recently delivered targeting 20 local participants from EPA, the Governorate staff, local academia as well as local tribal leaders and activists. The programs aim at building local capacities for conservation planning, management and monitoring especially in periods of crisis and high risk.

Another special program was implemented in late 2015 on Mangrove long-term monitoring programs. This included the assessment of the potential for a replantation program for priority areas through community driven initiatives. The program is piloted in the cluster of Dehamdh villages on the north coast.

A third specialized program was implemented on the *Cisticola haesitatus* (an endemic bird species and indicator of ecosystem health) in cooperation with UNDP as a key ecosystem indicator for coastal biodiversity. The monitoring program is implemented in accordance with the guidelines set forth by Birdlife International Atlas.

#### **2.19- Adopt a clear strategy on strengthening the marine enforcement capacity supported by a clear policy framework.**

The Yemeni Government is proud to have a citizen from Socotra chairing its Ministry of Fish Wealth. H.E. Mr. Fahd Salim Kafayen is a great believer in the importance of the protection and sustainable management of the sea wealth of Socotra with strong emphasis on its biodiversity significance. This will be instrumental in ensuring the sound

development and implementation of the marine conservation program for the islands. The following summarize examples of the ongoing initiatives under this program:

- The development of a new law enforcement program for maritime protection in all national waters.
- The implementation of an Islands' wide capacity building program for all local stakeholders involved in marine resource utilization, in cooperation with international partners and donors.
- A training of trainers program was recently concluded on fish quality, implemented by the marine research centre from Aden. The two weeks program targeted 40 participants from all local fish cooperatives across the islands, women cooperatives, local government representatives, EPA staff, and fish wealth departments' personnel.
- The legal advisor under the UNDP cooperation program with EPA, is designing a special legislative framework for a specialized court in the capital dedicated for environmental violations and crimes including marine resources, all based on the adopted zoning plan and its resource use provisions. This will significantly increase the effectiveness of the law enforcement capacities of all related authorities such as EPA and fish wealth departments. The program also included a series of training programs targeting local judges and law enforcement personnel.

It is anticipated that the program will commence in mid-2016.

Lastly under this heading, the maritime resource planning and management is integral to the revision process of the islands' wide Zoning Master Plan. As a result, the implementation modalities of the revised zoning plan will include a set of legal instruments for the maritime components.

**2.20- Undertake a comprehensive study on the potential impact of land grabbing and land conflicts and devise a clear strategy to ensure their minimal impact on key World Heritage values and features.**

The issue of land grabbing is a very critical issue for the Government in Yemen and goes beyond its potential impacts on the Property as a World Heritage Site. It represents a serious issue related to the state sovereignty, thus will be central to all legislative and enforcement program currently under development for the islands' under the new legitimacy of the Republic of Yemen represented by H.E. Dr. Hadi Mansour, the President of Yemen.

The issue of coastal lands grabbing will be addressed through several short and long term actions, as follows:

- The current Yemeni law strictly prohibits the allocation of coastal lands for all forms of physical infrastructure and developments.
- The Governorate of Socotra perceives the land grabbing attempts as illegal actions and violation of laws thus will be reversed as soon as the new law enforcement units are put in place and will never be recognized as legitimate actions.
- In 2013, a Cabinet Decision was taken to stop all forms of land grabbing and the prosecution of all individuals involved in such attempts before the juridical system.
- The current policy of the local government includes undertaking a comprehensive assessment of this issue as part of the review process for the Archipelago wide zoning plan. Based on the assessment, a law enforcement and legal prosecution process will be initiated against all violators. This process will be in place mid-2016.

Lastly, several preparatory actions will also be adopted including official warning letters to all violators, a series of dialogue sessions to explain the government position and rationale, and a community driven awareness program to prevent any expansion of such illegal activities on the short run.

### **2.21- Expand efforts to document and protect the cultural heritage of Socotra as a holder of great traditional and indigenous knowledge and practices related to the conservation and sustainable utilization of the property's resources;**

The protection of the cultural values of Socotra has always been a primary focus for all government and nongovernment led programs. Its represents a cornerstone for the maintenance of the Islands' identity and understanding including that related to its understanding and managing its biodiversity.

A specialized community based organization was established in 2013 with the aim to protect and promote the Socotri culture represented mainly by its unique language and indigenous knowledge. The locally led initiative adopts a very ambitious program to safeguard the cultural identity of the islands through:

- The documentation and archiving of traditional poetry being the main tool for the local language interpretation.

- The production of a series of publication on the various components of the cultural heritage including those related to biodiversity knowledge and uses.
- The conduction of a specialized capacity building program for local activists on the documentation systems and methodologies.
- The organization of an annual cultural festival including a poetry competition.

The Governorate of Socotra intends to adopt a special set of regulations related to the protection of tangible and intangible heritage of the Islands. It is committed to cooperate with all national and international partners to achieve the full integration of the cultural heritage into the planning and management of the Archipelago.

### **3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State Party which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value**

In November 2015, Socotra Archipelago was hit by two very strong cyclones, Chapala and Megh. Although apparently substantial, the impacts of the cyclones on the islands biodiversity are still not scientifically assessed. Initial pre-assessments led by EPA suggest that the impact of Chapala was mainly on the marine environment while the stronger – more obvious – impacts of Meg were on the terrestrial side.

In February 2016, coinciding with the preparation of this report, an international workshop was organized in Bahrain with the main to preliminary assess the impacts of the cyclones on the Islands' OUV as well as the livelihood of the People of Socotra and devise an emergency plan to respond to urgent needs and coordinate priority actions. The workshop was convened by the Araba Regional Centre for World Heritage in Cooperation with the Yemeni Ministry of Environment and participation of several international partners including IUCN, UNESCO, UNEP, Friends of Socotra and others.

The two-day workshop included a thorough analysis of the impacts of the factors influencing on the OUV of the Property as elaborated in the UNESCO/IUCN mission in 2012 and before the cyclones incident, and then analyzed the new factors resulting from the cyclones as well as the implications of the cyclones on the previously identified issues. Annex (1) includes the impact analysis matrix developed by the workshop participants.

It is important to note that the Government of Yemen which was represented in the workshop has fully adopted its outcomes. The Yemeni team has integrated the response analysis and plan into their national emergency plan for Socotra after the cyclones. The plan is currently being implemented the relevant institutions in Yemen.

Lastly, the national emergency plan also included an important action related to the repair of the seaport which was significantly affected by the cyclones. The seaport is located outside the terrestrial component of the property, however, at the border of the marine component. The Government of Yemen confirms that the repair process will be only and strictly limited to the restoration of the seaport to its pre-cyclone condition. It will not include any additions or expansion to the original jetty in terms of length and width. The needed raw materials will be collected from outside the property boundaries and both the repair and raw material collection processes will be undertaken under the direct supervision of the EPA in cooperation with its international partners from UNDP, UNEP and GIZ. The immediate repair of the seaport is critical to minimize risk of ships

being stranded to the coast of Socotra especially before the start of the annual monsoon season starting in June.

Another important action will be the repair of the airport strip and the construction of a protective wall around it. The airport is located outside the property and the repair process will follow the same guidelines adopted for the seaport rehabilitation. The protective wall will prevent the intrusion of livestock which represent a serious threat to aviation safety and local people wellbeing.

**4. Any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas.**

Not applicable. No major actions are planned on the Property at present. Please see section

## **5. Public access to the state of conservation report**

The Government of Yemen represented by the Ministry of Water and Environment authorizes UNESCO to share this report with the public through its website and database including the one page executive summary. By doing this, the Yemeni Government confirms its commitment to the principles of transparency and collaboration with all international partners and interest groups for the benefit of the long-term protection of Socotra as a World Heritage Property.

**6. Signature of the Authority**

On behalf of the legitimate Government of Yemen

**Dr. Azzi Hebat Allah Sharem**



**Minister of Water and Environment  
The Republic of Yemen**

**February 2016**

## Annex (1): Yemeni Government approved post-cyclone emergency plan

### Key Issue: Cyclones affecting the terrestrial and marine components of the Archipelago as well as the livelihoods of it people

No	Consequences	Priority Responses	Required Resources (USD)	Estimated Timeframe	Potential Partners / Donors
1	Damage to trees and terrestrial biodiversity	1- Establishment of 20 tree nurseries across the various habitats of the island; 2- Implementation of 40 replanting projects. 3- Train local communities and government staff in the proper replanting and maintenance systems.	500,000 1,050,000 250,000	Starting mid-2016	
2	Damage to marine environment	1- Undertake rapid assessment of damages. 2- Implement at least 10 rehabilitation project interventions across the islands. 3- Design and implement a training program on the marine environment protection and monitoring.	250,000 1,500,000 250,000	Starting mid-2016	
3	Destruction of houses and infrastructure	1- Rebuild around 7,500, renovate 5,000 major damaged, 20,000 minor damages. 2- Renovation of sea port. 3- Renovation of airport.	40,000,000 ?? ??	Starting early-2016	
4	Increased isolation	1- Resume air access through permanent alternatives.	NA	Starting early-2016	
5	Reduced access to drinking water	1- Reconnect main rural areas damaged (100 villages). 2- Rehabilitation of the Hadibo drinking water network and supply.	200,000 600,000	Starting early-2016	
6	Destruction of agriculture	1- Rehabilitation project of 300 home garden	210,000	Starting late-2016	
7	Loss of livestock	1- Rehabilitation of the 500 animal shelters and fencing.	250,000	Starting late-2016	

8	Deterioration of local people health	1- Re-activation of the Malaria combat with adequate (EPA approved) environmental and health safeguards.	200,000	Starting early-2016
9	Reduced governance capacity	1- Implement a comprehensive local government capacity building program.	200,000	Starting early-2017
10	Damage to archaeological sites	1- Assessment of status and impacts of damages on key Archeological site. 2- Implement a conservation and interpretation program.	10000 50,000	Starting early-2016
11	Reduction of tourism / bee-keeper / revenue sources	1- Revision and re-activation of the tourism master plan. 2- Implement a small soft load (revolving fund) program for sustainable tourism products / services. (50 service providers, 50 bee keepers). 3- Implement a training program for key stakeholders in the eco-tourism sector.	5,000 20,000 100,000	Starting early-2016