

Executive Summary

State Party Sudan

State, Province, or Region Red Sea State - Sudan

Name of property:

Sanganeb Marine National Park and Dungonab Bay-Mukkawar Island Marine

National Park

Geographical coordinates to the nearest second

The geographical coordinates of Sanganeb Marine National Park (SMNP), Dungonab Bay-Mukkawar Island Marine National Park (DMNP) and the whole serial site are:

Id №	Name of the component part	Region(s) Districts(s)	Coordinates of the Central Points	Area of Nominated component of the Property (ha)	Area of the Buffer Zone (ha)	Map №
001	SMNP	Sudanese Red Sea Coast	E 37° 44'4689" N 19° 67191"	17400		2
002	DMNP	Sudanese Red Sea Coast	E 37°08'2100" N 21°46'4000"	24330		3
003	The buffer zone	Sudanese Red Sea Coast			504600	1
004	The whole serial site		E 37°36'7789" N 20°56'7895"			1
			Total area	765300		

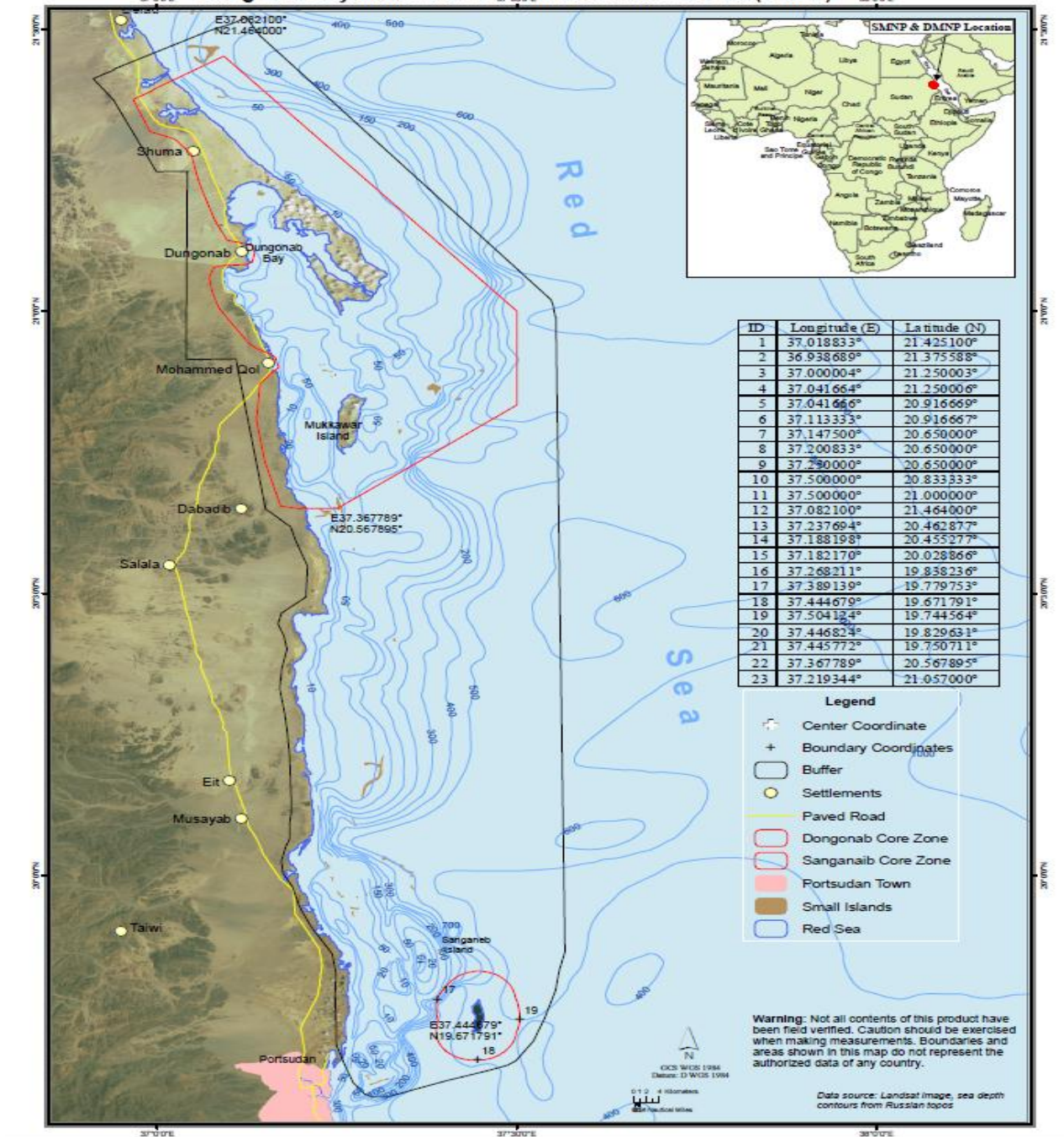
Textual Description of the Boundaries of the Nominated Property

The boundaries of the nominated serial property include Sanganeb Marine National Park (SMNP), Dugonab Bay- Mukkawar Island Marine National Park (DMNP) as core areas and portions also contribute to the buffer zone.

SMNP is located in the central Red Sea, about 30 km north-east of Port Sudan. The boundaries of SMNP are those of the Atoll and the 5 Km of marine waters around it. DMNP lies on the central Sudanese Red Sea coast, with its southern boundary approximately 125 km north of Port Sudan. DMNP boundary contains the Bay and its Peninsula, Mukkawar Island, several small islands and islets, and extensive coral reef complexes.

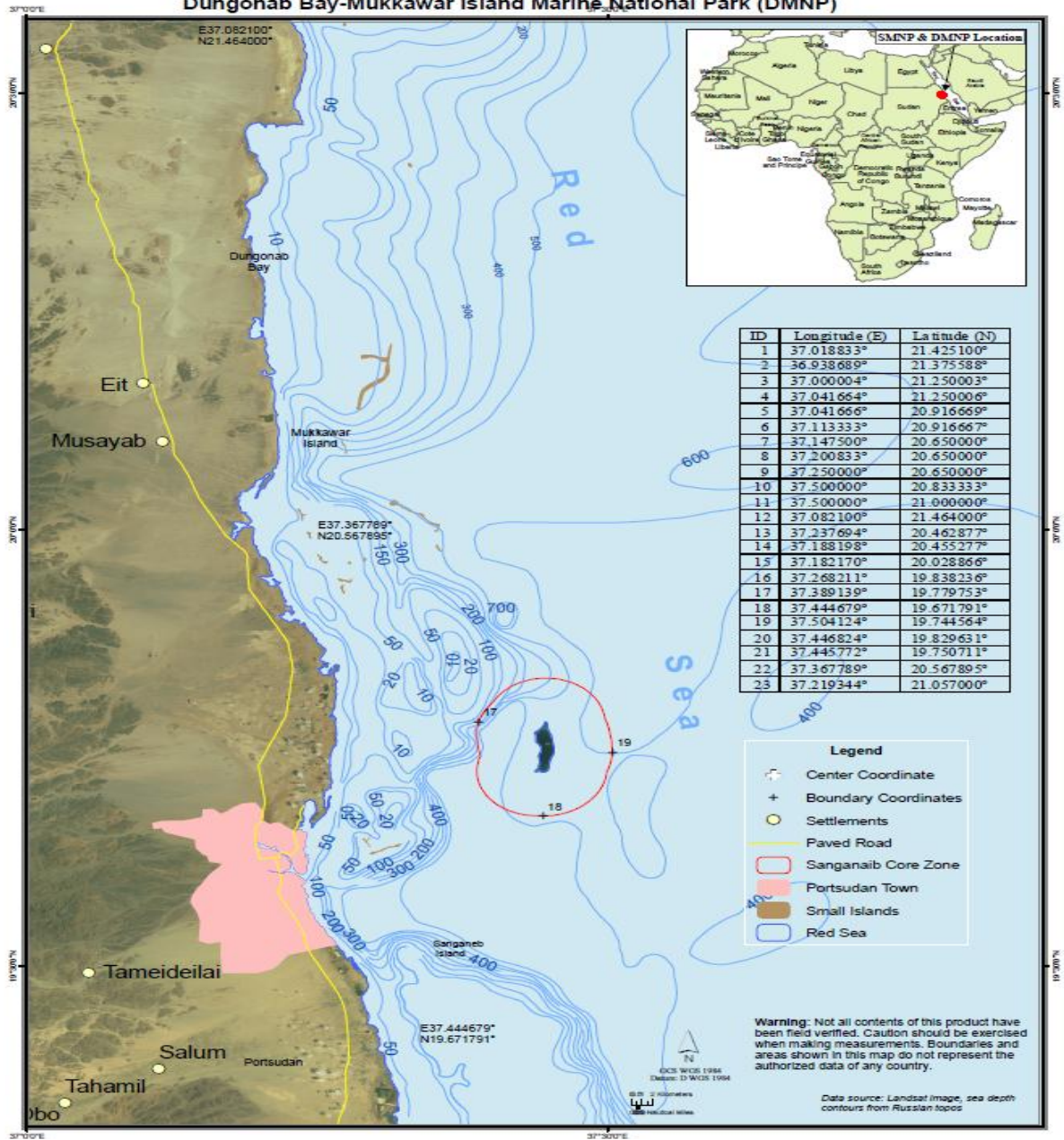
The two National Parks are linked by coastal waters extending for approximately 125Km.

**Sanganeb Marine National Park (SMNP) and
Dungonab Bay-Mukkawar Island Marine National Park (DMNP)**



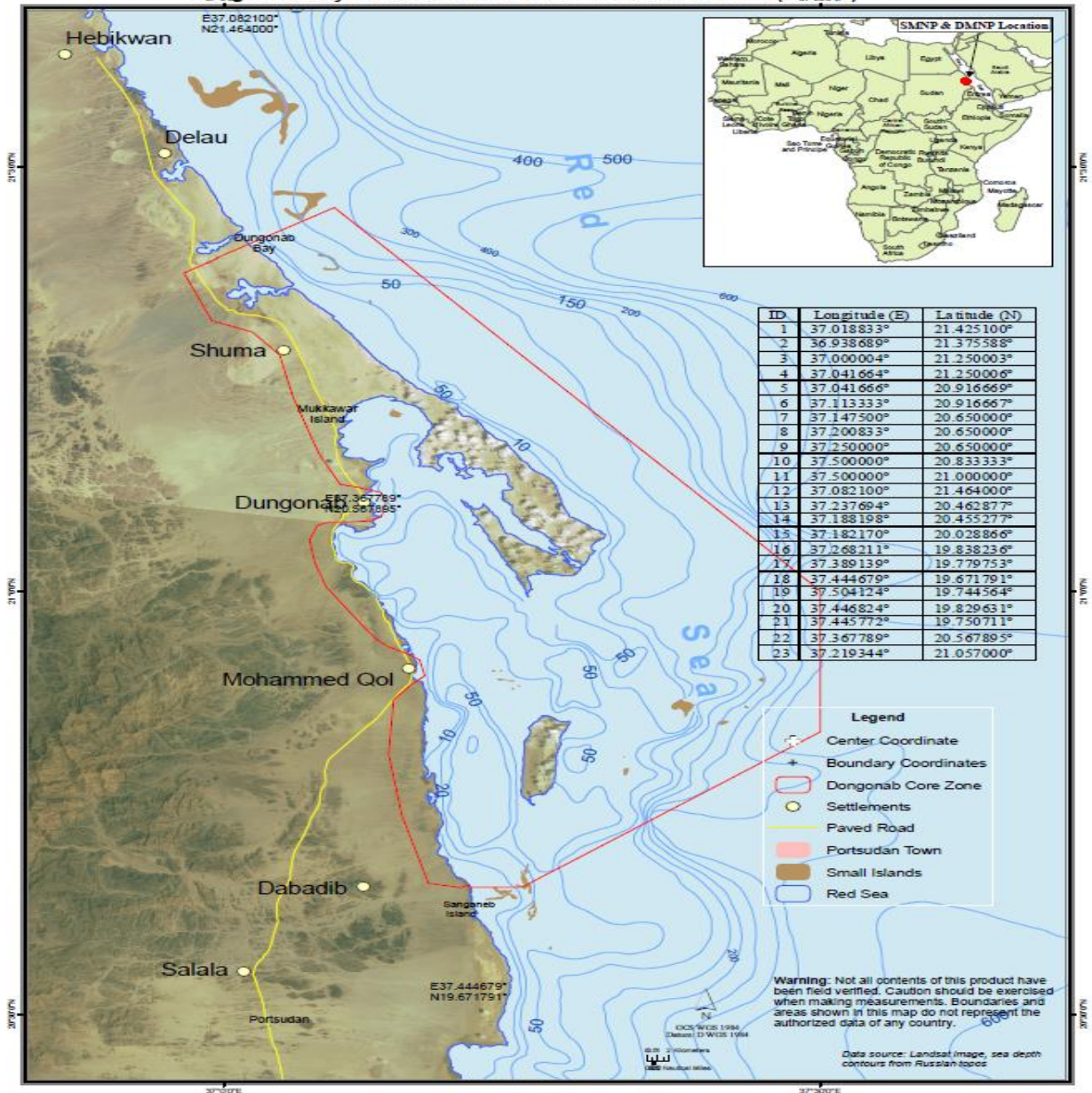
Map 1: The nominated serial site

**Sanganeb Marine National Park (SMNP) and
Dungonab Bay-Mukkwaw Island Marine National Park (DMNP)**



Map 2: SMNP

**Sanganeb Marine National Park (SMNP) and
Dungonab Bay-Mukkawar Island Marine National Park (DMNP)**



Map 3: DMNP

Criteria under which property is nominated

Criteria **vii** – **ix** – **x**.

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Brief synthesis

An expanse of coastline, containing two protected areas and encompassing very significant formations of an atoll and a large bay that contains islands, several small islets and some of the most northerly coral reefs in the world associated with species (including seagrass and mangroves) at the limits of their global range, evolutionary expansion, and thus are important from a scientific and conservation perspective. The two protected areas are naturally, geologically and ecologically connected and functionally linked by open flow and exchange.

The only atoll in the Red Sea, Sanganeb atoll is a submerged and overhanged predator dominated coral reef ecosystem of 13 different bio-physiographic reef zones, each providing typical coral reef assemblages. It supports a wealth of marine life and breathtaking underwater vistas, hosting at least 361 fish species with numerous endemic and rare species. Besides being a nurseries and spawning areas for key fishery species, it also hosts resident populations of dolphins, sharks and marine turtles, which also use the atoll as a resting, breeding and feeding area. .

Dungonab Bay, engulfing Mukkawar Island and other islands, contains an array of habitat types, including extensive coral reef complexes, mangroves, seagrasses and intertidal and mudflat areas which all enable the survival (Breeding, feeding and resting) of even endangered dugong, sharks, manta rays, dolphins and migratory birds. The Bay exhibits overlying fossil reef, sometimes up to 150m high, and contains fish and coral communities more usually separated by several hundred kilometers.

Justification for Criteria:

The proposed serial site meets the requirements stated in criteria: vii, ix and x.

Criterion vii: Contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance.

Sanganab Atoll is the only atoll in the Red Sea rising up 800m exhibiting spectacular colorful diversity of coral, fish and invertebrates that rendered it a Mecca to divers and photographers of the world due to the clarity of the water.

Dungonab Bay contains diverse pristine habitats including colorful coral reef communities and marine species, some completely unique to Sudan's marine ecosystem.

The naturalness and the esthetic features gave the property an increasing interest both regionally and internationally.

Criterion ix: Be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals.

The exceptional environmental conditions of the property provided coral growth and reef development in the Sudanese Red Sea with numbers of coral species higher than either the northern or the southern Red Sea. Such habitats in the Red Sea contain a high percentage of endemic species (Sheppard *et al* 1992) and it is logical that the property will support a unique and higher, on average, subset of the endemics available in the Red Sea.

The property serves as an important larvae export area and host important spawning sites for key fishery species. The property encompasses a variety of fish and coral communities more usually separated by several hundred kilometers. This wide range of intact marine ecosystems has proven resilience of reefs to coral bleaching.

Criterion x: Contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

The property diverse habitats host significant populations of globally-important and endangered species, including sharks, manta rays, dugong, dolphins, napoleon wrasse, groupers and marine turtles. The property is home to whale sharks, and the largest aggregations of manta rays in the Red Sea.

The property has been internationally-recognized as an Important Bird Area (IBA) for both resident and migratory birds.

Statement of Integrity

The property is an outstanding marine ecosystem that sustains intact ecological setup and interacting biological processes which in need of long-term conservation support for its unique diversity and endemism. It covers both shallow habitats and reef formations and deep-sea areas that ecologically interacting by natural exchange. The occurrence of seagrass beds, mangrove forests and sand beaches has regulated nutrient and sediment input into these reef complexes.

The property size is appropriate to contain the different features which sustain the intactness and the long-term conservation of its biodiversity. Sanganeb atoll is rather remote from land-based activities and the traditional artisanal fishing around it is under the control of fisheries and Wildlife Administrations.

Dungonab Bay marine waters are also protected by Wildlife Administration and Fisheries regulations. If these regulations are not promptly enforced, Dungonab Bay is likely to suffer negative impacts on the biota from activities on the two villages at the coast. Species which are likely to be affected are coral and fish species, turtles, manta rays, sharks, dolphins, dugongs, and birds.

Although the whole coastline of the property is subject to negative impacts from future developmental activities, the property has not shown any invasive or non-resident species as yet. However, with the increasing oil shipping tankers at the Sudanese coast, caution must be taken to monitor any effect from ballast water of these tankers.

Requirements for protection and management

There is a demonstrable commitment from the Government of Sudan towards the protection and conservation of the resource in the coastal waters. Several laws and regulations are in force and Sudan has signed and abides to regional and international protocols and conventions. The proposed site is protected by defined state and federal laws and administered by Wildlife Conservation General Administration (WCGA) and supported by an increasing awareness of the stakeholders. WCGA is aware of that the serial site will have a common management plan, if inscribed in the World Heritage List. There are currently two separate Management Plans for the two components. PERSGA (as it is currently updating DMNP Management Plan) has offered in December 2015 to support producing a common integrated management plan for the property.

The buffer zone is under protection by several legal mandates issued by the State Local Government (ICZM), and executed by Fisheries Administration , WCGA , Navy (Marine Security) and Tourism Ministry.

Name and Contact Information of Official Local Institution/ Agency

Organization: Sudanese National Commission for UNESCO

Address: P. O. Box 2324 Khartoum – Sudan.

Tel: +249 183 779888

Fax: +249 183 776030

E-mail: sudannatcom @ hotmail.com